DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 315 141 PS 017 773

TITLE	H.R. 3660, The Act for Better Child Care. Hearing before the Subcommittee on Human Resources of the Committee on Education and Labor. House of Representatives, One Hundredth Congress, Second Session (Louisville, Kentucky, April 23, 1988).
INSTITUTION	Congress of the U.S., Washington, D.C. House Committee on Education and Labor.
PUB DATE	88
NOTE	126p.; Serial No. 100-90. Poor legibility in some portions. For hearing on parallel Senate bill, see PS 018 347.
PUB TYPE	Legal/Legislative/Regulatory Materials (090)
EDRS PRICE	MF01/PC06 Plus Postage.
DESCRIPTORS	*Day Care; Early Childhood Education; *Federal Aid; *Federal Government; *Federal Legislation; *Federal Programs; *Government Role; Hearings
IDENTIFIERS	Congress 100th; *Kentucky; Kentucky (Jefferson County); Kentucky (Louisville); Proposed Legislation

ABSTRACT

Testimony on H.R. 3660, the Act for Better Child Care (ABC), is recorded in this document. The aim of the ABC is to lay a foundation for comprehensively addressing the shortage of child care by providing federal support that will enable states to ensure the availability, affordability, and safety of child care. Testimony concerned: (1) the need for the legislation as reflected by conditions in Louisville and the need to provide for local control over Title XX monies; (2) program success and inadequate funding in Louisville; (3) societal and economic change in Jefferson County, Kentucky; (4) the need for additional child care in the county; (5) experiences at a resource and referral service in the county, and survey findings on working conditions of child care center staff; (6) needs of private day care operators; (7) funding needs; (8) child care needs of parents; (9) emotional abuse of children by parents; (10) day care for mainstreamed, multihandicapped preschoolers; (11) funding to assist low-income working families and the need for child care facilities in Kentucky; (12) perceived positives and negatives of the bill; (13) child care program characteristics; and (14) for and against views of parents and representatives of coalitions and unions. Numerous prepared statements, letters, and supplemental materials are included. (RH)

****
* Reproductions supplied by EDRS are the best that can be made *
* from the original document. *
****

ED315141

PS

H.R. 3660, THE ACT FOR BETTER CHILD CARE

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
Office of Educational Research and Improvement
EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES INFORMATION CENTER (ERIC)
☒ This document has been reproduced as received from the person or organization originating it.
☐ Minor changes have been made to improve reproduction quality.
• Points of view or opinions stated in this document do not necessarily represent official OERI position or policy

HEARING

BEFORE THE

SUBCOMMITTEE ON HUMAN RESOURCES

OF THE

COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND LABOR
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

ONE HUNDREDTH CONGRESS

SECOND SESSION

HEARING HELD IN LOUISVILLE, KY, APRIL 23, 1988

Serial No. 100-90

Printed for the use of the Committee on Education and Labor

U.S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE
88-730 WASHINGTON : 1988

PS017773

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND LABOR

AUGUSTUS F. HAWKINS, California, *Chairman*

WILLIAM D. FORD, Michigan
JOSEPH M. GAYDOS, Pennsylvania
WILLIAM (BILL) CLAY, Missouri
MARIO BIAGGI, New York
AUSTIN J. MURPHY, Pennsylvania
DALE E. KILDEE, Michigan
PAT WILLIAMS, Montana
MATTHEW G. MARTINEZ, California
MAJOR R. OWENS, New York
CHARLES A. HAYES, Illinois
CARL C. PERKINS, Kentucky
THOMAS C. SAWYER, Ohio
STEPHEN J. SOLARZ, New York
ROBERT E. WISE, Jr., West Virginia
TIMOTHY J. PENNY, Minnesota
BILL RICHARDSON, New Mexico
TOMMY F. ROBINSON, Arkansas
PETER J. VISCLOSKY, Indiana
CHESTER G. ATKINS, Massachusetts
JAMES JONTZ, Indiana

JAMES M. JEFFORDS, Vermont
WILLIAM F. GOODLING, Pennsylvania
E. THOMAS COLEMAN, Missouri
THOMAS E. PETRI, Wisconsin
MARGE ROUKEMA, New Jersey
STEVE GUNDERSON, Wisconsin
STEVE BARTLETT, Texas
THOMAS J. TAUKE, Iowa
RICHARD K. ARMEY, Texas
HARRIS W. FAWELL, Illinois
PAUL B. HENRY, Michigan
FRED GRANDY, Iowa
CASS BALLENGER, North Carolina

SUBCOMMITTEE ON HUMAN RESOURCES

DALE E. KILDEE, Michigan, *Chairman*

THOMAS C. SAWYER, Ohio
MARIO BIAGGI, New York
STEPHEN J. SOLARZ, New York
PETER J. VISCLOSKY, Indiana
AUGUSTUS F. HAWKINS, California
(Ex Officio)

THOMAS J. TAUKE, Iowa
E. THOMAS COLEMAN, Missouri
FRED GRANDY, Iowa
JAMES M. JEFFORDS, Vermont
(Ex Officio)

CONTENTS

Page
Hearing held in Louisville, KY, April 23, 1988 1

Statement of:

Abramson, Hon. Jerry E., Mayor, Louisville, KY; Ms. Sharon Wilbert for county judge-executive, Harvey I. Sloane, Louisville, KY; Hon. Melissa A. Mershon, Louisville Board of Aldermen; Hon. Paul C. Bather, Louisville Board of Aldermen; Hon. Darryl T. Owens, county commissioner, Jefferson County and Ms. Elizabeth A. Grever, Community Coordinated Child Care, Louisville, KY 5
Atteberry, Joy, director, Kiddy Campus Day Care 109
Blevins, Hon. Walter, Jr., State representative, Morehead, KY; Frances Diana Fleming, director, The Caring Connection, Louisville, KY; Cleda Lawson, Floyd County Developmental Child Care, Prestonburg, KY; Linda Locke, advocacy director, Community Coordinator Child Care and Mavis Higgs, director, St. Alban's Episcopal Church Child Care Center, Louisville, KY 43
Johnson, Carolyn, Coalition for Freedom of Choice in Child Care 103
Schottland, Edward, senior vice president, NKC Hospitals, Louisville, KY; Lizzie Wallace, Bracken County, KY; Nelle Horlander, Louisville, KY; Margaret Brodley, Louisville, KY; and Maria Billingslea, Louisville, KY 77

Prepared statements, letters, supplemental materials, et cetera:

Abramson, Hon. Jerry E., mayor, Louisville, KY, prepared statement of 9
Bardstown City Schools, letter in support of H.R. 3660, dated April 20, 1988 122
Bather, Paul C., alderman, prepared statement of 30
Billingslea, Maria, prepared statement of 97
Blevins, Dr. Walter, Jr., 71st district, prepared statement of 45
Brodley, Margaret, prepared statement of 93
Buckhead, Sherie, letter dated April 23, 1988 105
Darst, H. James, Jr., Plainview Pre-School, Inc., prepared statement of 116
Fleming, Frances Diana, prepared statement with attachment on behalf of Mike Conliffe, Jefferson County Attorney 49
Grever, Elizabeth A., executive director, Community Coordinated Child Care, prepared statement of 34
Harmon, Mary E., letter dated April 23, 1988, to Hon. Romano Mazzoli 107
Higgs, Mavis, director, St. Alban's Child Care Center, prepared statement of 67
Horlander, Nelle P., Communications Workers of America, prepared statement of 89
Kentucky Association for Child Care Management, prepared statement of 118
Kentucky Cabinet for Human Resources, prepared statement of 120
Lawson, Cleda, Floyd County Developmental Child Care, prepared statement of 60
Mershon, Melissa A., alderman, Louisville, KY, prepared statement of 16
Neal, Janet, prepared statement of 115
Owens, Hon. Darryl T., district commissioner, Jefferson County, prepared statement of 25
Saunders, Barbara H., letter dated April 26, 1988, to Hon. Dale Kildee, enclosing material for the record 113
Schottland, Edward M., NKC Hospitals, Louisville, KY, prepared statement of 80
Wallace, Lizzie, prepared statement of 83
Wilbert, Sharon, prepared statement on behalf of Harvey I. Sloane 21
Zachem, H.M., administrative vice president, public affairs, Ashland Oil, Inc., letter dated April 21, 1988, to Hon. Carl C. Perkins 74

H.R. 3660, THE ACT FOR BETTER CHILD CARE

SATURDAY, APRIL 23, 1988

House of Representatives,
Subcommittee on Human Resources,
Committee on Education and Labor,
Louisville, KY.

The subcommittee met, pursuant to notice at 9:09 a.m., in the Canterbury Room, Executive Inn East, Louisville, KY, Hon. Dale Kildee (chairman of the subcommittee) presiding.

Members present: Representatives Kildee, Perkins, and Mazzoli.

Staff present: Susan Wilhelm, staff director; Mary Jane Fiske, senior legislative associate; and Damian Thorman, legislative associate.

Mr. **Kildee**. The Subcommittee on Human Resources convenes this morning in Louisville, KY to discuss H.R. 3660, the Act for Better Child Care.

This is our third hearing, the second of which was held in Washington, DC this past Thursday. We have heard from a variety of witnesses in these hearings including those who have serious concerns about the legislation as well as those who support it.

Witnesses at Thursday's hearing included Phyllis Schlafly, of the Eagle Forum, representatives of the Heritage Foundation and the American Enterprise Institute which are two conservative think tanks, representatives of for-profit providers and two Members of Congress who expressed serious reservations about the bill.

It is rare that a bill as originally introduced bears the same form as it may have when it finally becomes law. It is for this reason that we are conducting these hearings. At all of the hearings, including the one today, we keep the record open for two additional weeks for the submission of testimony from any interested party.

I am honored to be joined by my good friends and child care allies, Ron Mazzoli and Chris Perkins this morning. We will hear from them momentarily.

I would like to thank all of the people here in Kentucky who have worked so hard to support and inform the public of the important impact quality child care can have on our Nation and our children's future. The Act for Better Child Care is the single most significant piece of legislation concerning children to have been considered by the Congress in over a decade.

There is no question that the success of this legislation will depend on the grassroots support generated by groups such as the Kentucky Alliance for Better Child Care. I am proud to say that grassroots efforts are working and we have over a third of the House and Senate cosponsoring the Act for Better Child Care.

The Act for Better Child Care would lay a foundation for comprehensively addressing the shortage of child care by providing federal support for State efforts to ensure its availability, affordability, and safety. The bill recognizes that it is necessary for different types of child care to exist, including family day care in private homes, group care, and center based care, and would support all of these forms of child care.

It is estimated that almost 4 million children will be born in 1988. Each of these children will have been born into a very different society than existed just 15 years ago. Since 1966, the number of mothers in the work force has nearly doubled. Today, slightly more than half of all mothers with children under the age of 6, are in the work force. By the year 1995, that number will have increased to two-thirds.

An expanded child care system is needed to ensure that these children have a safe place to stay during the hours that their parents are working.

The ABC bill addresses a number of issues that are important in providing child care. Chief among these are the provisions that address the health and safety of the children. Recent press articles have sadly illustrated why this concern over health and safety is so important. These reports point out the growing number of children being left unattended because their parents cannot afford adequate child care. Eighteen-month-old Jessica McClure, whose day care provider was caring for nine small children, more than Texas law allowed, fell into an uncovered well because she was not adequately supervised.

At the child care hearing in Washington last Thursday, our subcommittee heard from a State licensing inspector, who found 47 toddlers being cared for by one provider in a basement setting. Thirty-two of those 47 were under the age of two.

The ABC bill would provide the minimum health and safety standards that any prudent parent would want and requires parental involvement in every step of its operation.

Under H.R. 3660, the Federal Government provides critically needed leadership and assistance while the States maintain the primary role of designing and implementing out the programs.

The Act for Better Child Care Services recognizes that the shortage of quality child care affects families at all income levels. For this reason, the legislation supports efforts to increase the overall supply of quality child care. It expands the resource referral program to help all parents in need locate quality child care and provides training to increase the skills of all child care providers.

I know of no better way to build a strong America than to support services that support families.

I would like to take a moment to address questions that have been raised over provisions in the Act for Better Child Care which deal with the separation of church and state. I am very much aware of the important role of churches in the provision of child care. In fact, representatives of several religious denominations and organizations were involved in the development of this child care legislation. However, I recognized at the time it was introduced that further work was needed on the question of how best to enable church participation, while addressing the constitutional principle of the separation of church and state. I pledged at that time that I would work for language that would address both issues, and we hope soon to have new language that does this.

Again, I would like to mention that the people of Kentucky are very fortunate in having Representatives like Ron Mazzoli and Chris Perkins. At this time I would like to defer to Mr. Mazzoli.

Mr. MAZZOLI. Mr. Chairman, thank you very much. Let me first thank you for taking your time to come to our community to conduct this hearing. I would like very much to thank my friend and colleague in the Kentucky delegation, Chris Perkins, for having driven all the way across the width of Kentucky last night in order to be here today. I appreciate that very much, Chris.

Let me, Mr. Chairman, if I might have your permission, put my full statement in the record.

Mr. KILDEE. Without objection, it will be included.

Mr. MAZZOLI. Our distinguished panelists each have problems of timing and I want them to have fullest opportunity to make their other appointments, so let me amplify a very few things that the chairman has said.

The need to provide adequate day care provisions for people in the country has been demonstrated in every possible way from every possible angle. Let me just kind of isolate a little bit on that in a general sense.

In 1987 and 1988, it is estimated that 50 percent of the mothers who have children under six are in the work force, and that number could become as much as two-thirds in the early part of the next decade. In Kentucky, to quantify, according to the 4-C Program, Kentucky is 50th of the 50 States in the number of regulated family day care homes.

We have in Kentucky 135,000 children who are qualified for day care; however, we only have 42,000 licensed slots for these children. We are meeting in Kentucky only one-third of the need. In Kentucky in 1987, 15 of our 120 counties had no licensed day care whatsoever, 15 of our counties had fewer than 30 slots of licensed day care. In Kentucky, we had some 2,000 families qualified as poor or impoverished waiting for day care. So again, without going beyond that, it is clear that we are not filling the need in Kentucky, we are not filling the need in Louisville and Jefferson County, which will be demonstrated by our panel.

The bill that the chairman, Chairman Kildee, has introduced of which I am a proud cosponsor, gets one step in the direction of providing the service. And as the chairman has said, not since 1972, which was my first term in Congress, when President Nixon was our President, have we addressed at the Federal level seriously the question of the Federal role in child care. As we know from that episode, the bill that contained the child care provisions was vetoed, so here we are 16 years later. I think that the chairman has drafted a fine bill. He said clearly that there are certain sections in the bill which need further drafting and I think it is commendable that he is open to our suggestions on those sections.

I once again, Mr. Chairman, would like to thank you on behalf of my friends from Louisville and Jefferson County for taking the time to join us today.

Mr. KILDEE. Thank you, Ron. Mr. Perkins.

Mr. **Perkins**. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, it is a pleasure to be here in Louisville. It is not quite my part of the state, but it is a pleasure to be here. I see a lot of good friends, some I remember from the legislature, some I knew when I was around town. It is good to be here with my good friend, Ron Mazzoli, and the distinguished Chairman, Mr. Kildee.

You know, when I first arrived at the House a number of years ago, one of the first things I remember Dale Kildee started talking to me about was child care, and the development of a child care program that he would like to see at some sort of a national level. A little later I think we had some joint hearings with the House and the Senate that began to illustrate some of the problems that we have in America and some of the educational deficiencies that we have in America, particularly in that age group just after birth to age 4.

I think the study that we had that was chaired by the chairman, from Procter & Gamble, fully illustrated the fact that from ages 1 to 4 in this country there is a gap, there is a period of time where the child is not given the proper consideration in this country.

You know, Canada recently started a $4 billion child care program. We need a child care program, and then in combination with that child care program, we need to move to try to break some of the problems that we have with illiteracy in this country where we have between 25 and 60 million people functionally illiterate. We do not know exactly how many, the studies do not tell us how many. You have seen various studies, you can believe which one you want, but we know we have a major problem in this country.

The place where you start getting that is in the family and with young children. You try to bring them in like some of the follow-through programs that our chairman and Mr. Mazzoli are familiar with that work so well, where you try to take the whole child entity and look at that child and all the problems together; the medical problems, the health problems, the educational problems, the nutritional problems, and you make that one package.

You know, I think that what we are talking about with the legislation today is something that is going to be moving in that direction. I will tell you frankly, I have been amazed by the interest and the support that we have had from the public and across this country with this type of legislation. I think it is a vital first step in what we need to do to attack the problems of illiteracy and nutritional deficiencies in this country, and they still exist and are prevalent across it.

I thank the chairman and I thank Mr. Mazzoli for allowing us the opportunity to come into this State, my State, and talk a little bit and hear a little bit about some of these problems that we want to address on a national level from now on. I thank the chairman.

Mr. **Kildee**. Just before we start, here at the table is Susan Wilhelm, the staff director and Mary Jane Fiske who is the senior legislative associate for the minority Republican staff and Damian Thorman.

With that, we will start with our first panel. The first panel consists of the Honorable Jerry Abramson, mayor, Louisville, KY; the Honorable Melissa Mershon, board of aldermen, Louisville, KY and representing the Honorable Harvey Sloane is Sharon Wilbert; the

Honorable Paul Bather, board of aldermen, Louisville, KY; the Honorable Darryl Owens, commissioner, Louisville, KY and Ms. Elizabeth A. Grever, executive director, Community Coordinated Child Care, Louisville, KY. You may proceed.

STATEMENTS OF HON. JERRY ABRAMSON, MAYOR, LOUISVILLE, KY; MS. SHARON WILBERT FOR COUNTY JUDGE-EXECUTIVE HARVEY SLOANE, LOUISVILLE, KY; HON. MELISSA MERSHON, LOUISVILLE BOARD OF ALDERMEN; HON. PAUL BATHER, LOUISVILLE BOARD OF ALDERMEN; HON. DARRYL OWENS, COUNTY COMMISSIONER, JEFFERSON COUNTY; AND MS. ELIZABETH A. GREVER, COUNTY COORDINATED CHILD CARE, LOUISVILLE, KY

Mayor ABRAMSON. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and welcome to Louisville, KY. It is really a pleasure for us to welcome you and of course our own Congressman and Congressman Perkins to come to our community and spend a little time with us and talk a bit about these important issues.

I would like, for the record, to submit my formal testimony.

Mr. KILDEE. Without objection, it will be included.

Mayor ABRAMSON. Thank you.

I speak today both as the mayor of the city of Louisville and also as a representative of the U.S. Conference of Mayors. There is no question, Mr. Chairman, as you have set forth, that we are in a situation where we need more safe and affordable day care in this country. Fifty percent or more of the mothers of preschool children are in the work force.

When you start putting it in terms of statistics, you begin to realize that the continuance of this situation will occur over and over again. In 1979, 7.2 million children under the age of 6 had mothers in the work force; in 1987 there were 10.5 million and the projection for 1995 is that it will rise to over 15 million. So day care facilities serve only a fraction of those who are truly in need and that is not even speaking about the additional millions of youngsters over the age of 6 who need some type of day care facility after school or in situations where—summer months where school is out.

The situation grows even worse when you look at it in terms of low income families within our community and within this country. In 1981, federally assisted child care programs served only 472,000 of the 3.5 million children younger than 6 that were living in poverty in this country. By 1985, there were 4.9 million poor children in that age group and even less money to serve them.

The lack of child care is unquestionably a key barrier to employment. When you put it in terms of economic development and you look at especially the AFDC mothers in this community and throughout the country, you do a survey and you find that 50 percent of them have children under the age of 6 and 60 percent cite the lack of child care for their youngsters as the specific reason for their difficulty in seeking, obtaining and holding a job in this country.

The situation in Louisville is much in line with the national story. We have 259 licensed facilities and they serve about 15,000 plus youngsters. And yet there is another 15,000 to 30,000 children in our community who still need child care. Where are they? You know, they are either in unlicensed facilities—and some of the other members of the panel will focus on those situations—or they are latch-key children who simply come home and they are there by themselves. It has a direct effect on economic development.

Everybody talks about jobs and the creation of productivity and the need to be able to compete in a world market, and yet a lack of adequate day care affects economic development. More than half the labor force today are women. More than half the women with children under 6 are in the work force. Ten to 15 years ago, that was not the situation. And yet, with inadequate day care resources, productivity falls, frequency of absenteeism goes up, stress and the situation of wondering about your children continues to haunt working mothers and fathers for that matter as it relates to their youngsters. Child care is a work force issue and with vast implications on our overall economy.

Improving productivity obviously is one of the buzz words of the 1980's. And inadequate child care stymies increased productivity.

Now what are local governments doing? You are going to hear from some of the members of this panel that we are doing our part as best we can to create a catalyst to assist in expanding day care opportunities. I proposed, when I was presenting last year's budget to our Board of Aldermen and the Aldermen concurred, that along with the normal $118,000 to $120,000 that we provide to the providers of day care in this city, we also create a challenge grant of $100,000 which we gave to 4-C's and we said go out and get it matched to be able to create more opportunities for youngsters to provide day care. Since that time, last July, they have been able to match it with already some $65,000 to $70,000 to create a challenge which gave an opportunity for day care to better serve those in need in our community. It has worked and local communities have been involved in trying to create that atmosphere.

And yet, despite the strong support in this community, there are still about 700 families on the waiting list for subsidized day care. A waiting list, by the way, that could last as much as two years.

Now I would like to focus specifically on the bill for a second, House—H.R. 3660, on behalf of the Conference of Mayors.

We are very concerned, as relates to the local elected officials and local governments being involved in the State planning process. The U.S. Conference of Mayors supports this bill right down the line. Just as you said, there are some things that need to be tinkered here and there to bring it into focus. There is a concern from local mayors and local governments that we need to be in the link, we need to be in the loop, if you will. Local needs should be taken into account at the State level when they are making decisions regarding financing. We must allow for better coordination of funds at the local level. There are a lot of mayors around this country that are frustrated because they do not really understand where the title XX moneys are going and yet they are taking community development block grant funds and focusing them for social needs in the community. They are taking funds from their general revenue and focusing them. And there is no coordinated cooperation in regards to the title XX funds, and that is an issue that we would like focus from your committee as you go forward on your bill.

Another one is that for larger jurisdictions like Louisville and cities that are even larger than we are, we would like a direct pass-through provisions where the funds would go through the State—and I emphasize, through the State—to the local government, where we would be in a situation to put a plan into effect that would best meet the needs of our communities. When you think about helping existing funding programs, you have to think in terms of what the local folks feel is most important to their community. The U.S. Conference of Mayors is willing to offer assistance in creating some type of formula to determine the percentage of funds in larger jurisdictions that could flow directly through the state to the local government to be implemented through a local plan.

Finally on behalf of the U.S. Conference of Mayors, if in fact the entire $2.5 billion is not authorized—and for Kentucky that would mean somewhere in the neighborhood of about $45 million for the State whereas today we get about $9 million—if in fact, the $2.5 billion is not authorized because of the deficit or whatever may happen, we are very concerned that there—that States and local governments not be saddled with well-meaning Federal mandates regarding training and licensing and things that we simply will not be able to put into effect if we do not have the funds at the outset. Often that happens. You always—your greatest intention is to provide tremendous legislation and then you set to it to implement it and sometimes—just sometimes—we are left sort of—I do not want to say holding anything—we are just left trying to implement it without the funds. So if in fact, there is a decrease——

Mr. **Kildee**. That is a comment to——

[Laughter.]

Mayor **Abramson**. But we appreciate the intent and we certainly appreciate the Bill.

Despite these concerns, I want to make it very clear that the members of the U.S. Conference of Mayors are strongly in support of the Act for Better Child Care. We do have a child care crisis in America. It does affect everything from economic development to the family unit, it gets right to the crux of the family unit, and ABC will go a long way to help resolve that problem.

I certainly thank you on behalf of this community and on behalf of myself personally, and the U.S. Conference of Mayors for giving us this opportunity to make a presentation. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. **Kildee**. Thank you very much, Your Honor, we appreciate your testimony. If you have other obligations—I know you have a special day here in Louisville.

Mayor **Abramson**. I do, I have to go pick up trash for Operation——

Mr. **Mazzoli**. Mr. Chairman, if I could before the mayor leaves, commend him on his statement today. This week on the floor of the House, we adopted an amendment to the immigration bill which extends the period for legalization. It has to still go to the Senate, it may or may not become law, but the work that the Conference of Mayors has done, lead by Jerry who gave me a call several weeks ago, was very influential in the adoption of that bill on the House floor. I think that the kind of testimony he is bringing today, once again on his own behalf as our mayor, but also on behalf of the various organizations he represents, will be also equally effective in making sure that this bill goes someplace.

Thank you, Jerry.

Mr. KILDEE. Thank you, Mayor. Our next witness, the Honorable Melissa Mershon, Board of Aldermen.

[The prepared statement of Hon. Jerry E. Abramson follows:]

City of Louisville
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
601 W. Jefferson Street • Louisville, KY 40202-2728
(502)587-3061

JERRY E. ABRAMSON
MAYOR

STATEMENT BY JERRY E. ABRAMSON

MAYOR OF LOUISVILLE

Before the

SUBCOMMITTEE ON HUMAN RESOURCES

COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND LABOR

U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

April 23, 1988

Representative Kildee, Representative Perkins and Representative Mazzoli:

It gives me great pleasure to welcome you to Louisville. I appear before you this morning both as Mayor of Louisville and as a representative of the U.S. Conference of Mayors.

The nation's mayors have long recognized the need for increasing the supply of safe and affordable child care in this country. We are pleased to have the opportunity to testify today in support of the Act for Better Child Care -- legislation which would help us make significant progress in meeting this need.

You are well aware, of course, of the growing need for child care in this country. Half of all mothers with preschool children are in the labor force. In the next decade, the need for child care will continue to rise.

In 1979 there were 7.2 million children younger than age six with mothers in the labor force; in 1987 there were 10.5 million; by 1995 the number will rise to almost 15 million.

Day care facilities, of course, are able to serve only a small fraction of these children.

And there are millions more children over the age of 6 that also need day care after school and during the summer months.

The situation is even worse for low-income children.

In 1981 federally-assisted child care programs served only 472,000 of the 3.4 million children younger than six and living in poverty. By 1985 there 4.9 million poor children in that age group, and less money available to serve them.

Research shows that lack of child care is a key barrier to employment for some AFDC mothers: 90 percent had children younger than 12 and more than half had children younger than six. Nearly two-thirds cited child care as the major difficulty in seeking, getting and holding a job.

In the Louisville-Jefferson County area, the availability of affordable day care is much the same as nationally.

There are 259 licensed facilities in our community, serving 15,456 children. However, there are at least another 15,000 to 30,000 children who need day care that aren't being served by licensed facilities.

What is happening to those children? Many are in unlicensed facilities. Other speakers here today will discuss the very real problems that such unlicensed facilities present. Others are "latch-key" children.

One of the new realizations about the lack of adequate child care in our country is its effect on economic development. The problems associated with inadequate child care is having a direct impact on productivity in the work place.

More than half of the labor force in our country today are women. And, to reiterate a point I made earlier, more than half of this country's women with pre-school or school-age children are in the work force.

A little more than a decade ago, that wasn't true. The increasing labor force participation of women is perhaps the most dramatic change occurring in the work force today.

Clearly, then, child care is a work force issue -- an issue with vast implications for the health of the American economy and the well-being of American workers and their families.

Improving productivity is one of the "buzz" words of the current economic revitalization and a real key to providing more jobs for people. Inadequate child care, if not addressed soon, will stymie our nation's efforts to improve productivity, severely limiting our ability to make American industries competitive in the global economy.

Other speakers today will provide you with detailed information about Louisville's day care statistics, but I want to assure the members of this committee that we in Louisville are actively engaged in assisting care providers in serving low income families.

To cite but one example, the City of Louisville, in the current fiscal year, has provided a $100,000 challenge grant to the Community Coordinated Child Care program (4Cs), the agency that coordinates subsidized child care in our community.

This $100,000 grant, which is in addition to our annual line item budget allocation (of $118,000) to 4Cs, has been matched so far by $65,000 in private contributions. This increase in funding has allowed 4Cs to provide quality child care to an additional 50 low income families this year.

Despite our community's strong financial support for subsidized day care, there are still about 700 families on the waiting list on various programs that provide subsidized child care. Those families on the list can wait as long as two years before an opening occurs for their children.

In Louisville, and all across the nation, too many parents, both low and middle income parents, are unable to find safe and affordable day care for their children, and the lives and futures of too many children are in jeopardy.

Our children need more help from the federal government, and they need it now. The Act for Better Child Care provides that help. You are to be commended for supporting it.

As I indicated earlier, the Conference of Mayors supports ABC. It would make child care more affordable for low and moderate income families. It would increase the number of child care facilities and qualified day care staff. It would improve the quality of day care services, help coordinate child care resources, and encourage a range of day care options so that parents can find appropriate services for their children.

There are several changes which we would like to see in the legislation, however.

> * Local elected officials and their governments must be involved in the state planning process and must have some say in how funds are used in their community.
>
> Mayors and city governments are frustrated by the current Title XX program. They often have no knowledge of how the funds are used in their city or who is served with them. Often cities provide funding, either from local revenue or federal sources, such as Community Development Block Grant funds, to local day care centers. Yet they are rarely able to coordinate the use of these funds with that of the Title XX funds.
>
> Mayors and other local officials should be included in the state planning process so that local needs will be taken into account as funding and other decisions are made.

* For larger jurisdictions there should be a pass-through provision.

Funds should go through the state to the local government and be spent according to a locally developed plan. This would help to ensure that ABC funds meet local needs and are spent in a way that complements existing child care efforts in a city. All state licensing or other requirements would, of course, have to be met. The amount passed-through would be determined by formula. The Conference of Mayors is ready to work with you on the development of such a pass-through system.

* ABC has an authorization of $2.5 billion, a reasonable amount of assistance, given the shortage of affordable, safe day care today. (Kentucky would receive about $48 million under the bill, compared with the $9 million it now receives for day care under existing programs.) With the current federal deficit crisis, however, we know that the full amount of funds may not be appropriated. If we do not get a full funding level, it may be necessary to phase in even more gradually some of the licensing, training and other requirements. Too often state and local governments get saddled with well-intentioned federal mandates without the funds to implement them.

Despite these concerns, be assured that the mayors of America's cities support the ABC bill. We have a child care crisis in this nation. ABC would go a long way toward resolving it.

I am honored to have had the opportunity to testify before you this morning. Thank you.

Ms. Mershon. Thank you.

First, let me start off by saying thank you for bringing this hearing to our state and listening to the views and opinions of the Commonwealth of Kentucky. For that I am very grateful.

Second, let me also respectfully request that my written comments be read into the record.

Mr. Kildee. Without objection that will be included.

Ms. Mershon. I would like to just bring up two points to you. My mayor talked about his position with the Conference of Mayors; I happen to be on the board of directors of the National League of Cities and we have done an intense study on families, and I would like to give you this also for the record. In that you will find that the cities have had to form new partnerships because the Federal Government is cutting that umbilical cord of the funds that used to flow into our communities.

You will read story after story of programs that municipalities have put together to meet the needs of their communities, to attempt to meet the needs. They are doing wonderful things, but the bottom line of every one of those stories is that there is not enough money to take care of the total need. So, although we are trying very hard, we are not getting where we want to go.

The second thing I would like to talk about to you this morning is what the mayor talked about; what are we directly doing here in the city of Louisville. He talked about the challenge grant money. With that challenge grant money, we asked 4-C's—and Liz Grever will talk to you after I speak—that is Community Coordinated Child Care, they administer this grant for us. They qualify the families and they sign the contracts of parents, families who are working or students, to have affordable child care provisions here in the community.

To let you know what this grant is doing for our city at this time, we have 114 families with 162 children being serviced through this grant. One hundred and two members of that 114 families, or 89 percent, are head of household single parents. Of these, only 21 receive any form of child support. The median income of these families is $10,218 a year.

Other families that are being serviced by the grant, 104 or 91 percent are heads of household who have full time employment. Two of the people who are in our program are full time students and eight are students who are also employed.

But when you look at the problem, as I see it, of all the families that are in our program, there are 64 different employers of those people, and none of the employers except for the city of Louisville provides any subsidy for the day care assistance that is needed for these people who need work.

We have 264 people on a waiting list for this program alone. Families that are applying to be on the waiting list today are being told they have to wait at least a year.

All of these figures—I am sure you go to hearing after hearing and hear many, many figures and they all sound so dismal. But let me give you some good news. Of the 114 families that we are servicing through this one grant with city tax dollars, we receive a return of approximately $1,147,000 to the local economy through their income earnings. That is something that makes them productive citizens and of course gives me as an alderman tax base to provide the goods and services that I need to as an elected official.

Mr. **Kildee**. They pay into the treasury rather than drawing from the treasury.

Ms. **Mershon**. And let me put it into dollars and cents because I think it is easier when we do that. For every dollar that we put in of our city tax dollars to this one program, $5 is returned to the local economy in the income that they earn. We feel we save $2 because they are not on Federal or other subsidy programs, so that is a net gain or a net return of $7 for every $1 that the community puts into this program. We believe that that is money well spent and we intend to continue to put money into this community challenge program because we know it is a successful program. But we also know that we are only scratching the surface and that we cannot do this alone.

Quality child care is needed to provide for every child and parent in our city, State and country, so that each person will have opportunity to achieve his or her optimum potential.

We support you and the bill that you have introduced and want to work with you to make sure of its passage so that we can do more than just this one grant that we are doing right now in our community.

Thank you.

Mr. **Kildee**. Thank you, Ms. Mershon for your testimony.

Ms. **Mershon**. Excuse me. Congressmen, we do something as elected officials, called a party reorganization and it happens at 10 o'clock, and unfortunately I am also a party elected official as well as a political community elected official and I must go to my Democratic Caucus to participate in that at 10 o'clock. I will be leaving, but I will have a person who is being assisted in this program who lives in my ward, and we had a conversation before the meeting started, and she will talk to you about how the program has assisted her and the problems that she is having in keeping her job with three children and providing care so that her one 5-year old, who is such a bright, outstanding child, will get the quality time from her because she is out trying to earn a living so that that child will have food on the table and a roof over her head. So I am leaving behind a very good representative from my ward to answer questions and I am sorry I will not be with you for the rest of the hearing.

Mr. **Mazzoli**. I want to thank Melissa very much for the testimony, it was excellent and well-delivered.

One question I had, how much is the size of that grant?

Ms. **Mershon**. It is $100,000 and that is just in the grant alone and the mayor says we have $116,000 that we also provide to specific day care providers. We provide $100,000 for seed which is for the general day care provider, who takes that money and administers it with matching a family to particular day care units.

Mr. **Mazzoli**. Well it is really an interesting program and one that we will want to talk to Libby about. But thank you again and we appreciate all that you have done for us.

Mr. **Kildee**. Ms. Sharon Wilbert, representing the Honorable Harvey Sloane.

[The prepared statement of Melissa A. Mershon follows:]

STEVE H. MAGRE
President

BOARD OF ALDERMEN
CITY OF LOUISVILLE
KENTUCKY
40202

ALDERMEN BY WARDS

MELISSA A. MERSHON
SHARON HALL
DR. MICHAEL R. CARRELL
CYRIL ALLGEIER
STEVE H. MAGRE
JERRY KLEIER
DENVER BUTLER
TOM DENNING
BILL WILSON
REV. ARTHUR SMITH
REGINALD MEEKS
PAUL C. BATHER

TESTIMONY OF ALDERMAN MELISSA A. MERSHON, CITY OF LOUISVILLE, TO THE HOUSE EDUCATION AND LABOR SUBCOMMITTEE ON HUMAN RESOURCES ON H.R. 3660, ACT FOR BETTER CHILD CARE

APRIL 23, 1988
LOUISVILLE, KY

Congressman Kildee and Honorable members of the Committee, thank you for inviting me to testify at this hearing of the Subcommittee on Human Resources on H.R. 3660, the Act for Better Child Care (ABC).

I testify before you today in support of H.R. 3660. Economic necessity if forcing increasingly larger numbers of mothers and single parents with young children to enter the work force to help support their children. Since the last major Federal effort to develop a comprehensive child care system was considered by Congress in 1971, the American work force has made many changes. It is necessary that we address these changes and their impact on families and their children. The time for debate about child care is over. No longer should we ask about the need for quality child care, but rather, how will we ensure quality child care.

Child care program development and funding has been left up to local municipalities which are facing Federal funding cuts at increasingly alarming levels. With the loss of General Revenue Sharing monies, the City of Louisville has had to gradually cut back and eliminate funding to all but the essential and life sustaining outside agencies that seek government monies. One agency in this category is Community Coordinated Child Care (4-C) and their Child Care Subsidy Program.

April 23, 1988
Testimony
Page 2

The City of Louisville provides funds through a Challenge Match Grant and General Fund monies for financial aid for child care costs to working or student parents who meet income guidelines of 80% or below the medium City of Louisville income. To be eligible for the program, parents must be working at least 25 hours per week or registered as a full-time student or be part-time student/part-time employed. The gross annual income including child support, if paid, and size of family determines the amount the family pays per week. 4-C is then billed by the child care center through a contract signed by the parent, center director and 4-C staff. A sliding fee scale is utilized.

At this time, 114 families with 162 children are served by this program. One hundred and thirty-five, or 83% are in full time care. The remaining are in BEFORE AND AFTER SCHOOL CARE. So far this year a total of 151 families with 202 children have been served by the City of Louisville 4-C program.

Of the 114 client families, 102 (89%) heads of households are single parents. Of these families only 21, or 21% receive any form of child support. The medium income of families in the program is $10,218 per year. Twenty-six (26%) of these single parents work at least 25 hours per week and are still below the poverty level.

104 (91%) of the heads of households of families currently served are employed full-time. Two (1%) are full-time students and 8 (7%) are both student and employed.

The parents served by the program are employed by over 64 different employers. With the exception of the City of Louisville and Jefferson County Government, no employer provides child support services or subsidy.

There are 264 families on the waiting list for City of Louisville funding. Families most recently placed called in March 1987, or over a year ago. Families calling today face a minimum of a year long wait for services at current funding levels.

The 114 families on the City of Louisville subsidy programs will return $1,147,389.00 to the local economy through their earnings this year. Based on the cost of the subsidy program, one dollar ($1.00) in tax-funded child care subsidy returns five dollars ($5.00) to the local economy in parents' earnings. In addition, for every dollar spent on child care subsidy, two dollars ($2.00) are saved in family support entitlement programs such as AFDC and food stamps. That is a net gain to the economy of $7.00 for every $1.00 spent on child care subsidy in the City of Louisville. ($168,130 in tax funds plus $50,000 in charitable funding.)

Such programs allow low income parents to work and maintain self-sufficiency. For the students involved in the program, they are able to attend school in order to increase their earning potential.

I believe that the ABC Bill will provide a foundation for states to assist working parents with their child care needs through the development of model child care programs, such as the 4-C program here in Louisville, which is only scratching the surface of what is needed in this community. Quality child care is needed so that every child, and parent in our city, state and country will have the opportunity to achieve his or her maximum potential.

Thank you once again for allowing me to testify in support of H.R. 3660 on behalf of the residents of the City of Louisville.

Ms. Wilbert. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, Congressman Perkins, distinguished members of the panel and staff.

I appreciate the opportunity to speak today and I bring to you regrets from the Honorable County Judge Harvey Sloane, who could not be present because of a long-standing engagement. I would ask that my comments be read into the record and I apologize for not having it prepared today but will submit it to the committee by Wednesday.

Mr. Kildee. Without objection, it will be included.

Ms. Wilbert. I would like to point out first of all our deep appreciation for the congressional interest in this cause. It is something that local officials have had a great deal of frustration over for many years because we see the ripple effect of what happens when adequate child care is not provided. Your presence here today is living testimony to your concern and we are appreciative of that.

Jefferson County is undergoing an industrial revolution. For many, many years we were an industrial community with heavy manufacturing and agricultural activities that offered substantial services and dollars for our society. Over the last 20 years we have watched many industries leave our community and probably the most famous of those are Belknap, International Harvester, the tobacco industry and just this month alone the last tobacco warehouse has left Jefferson County. This is the first time we will be without that industry in 150 years. Also warehousing and operations for much of the alcohol and whiskey fermenting industry has diminished.

This has of course brought a major change in the structure of our society. Individuals who once earned jobs that average $16, $18, $20, sometimes $24 per hour are now forced into jobs where they earn often minimum wage, usually maxing out at no more than $7 an hour.

The separation between the haves and the have-nots, the growing numbers of the new poor and the growing numbers of the homeless in our community is staggering. We have 3,500 homeless on the streets, of which at least 60 are families with children.

The impact of this societal and economic change on our children is one of great trauma and staggers the imagination. Each of our local governments has done what they can to subsidize. The county government provides $120,000 for day care and that provides 52 families with 80 children. The State of Kentucky provides 1,446 slots. Of those, almost 900 are in the area of child protective services where we have identified officially that the children are neglected or abused or otherwise in trauma. Another 549 are Priority II's where there is great financial need. The waiting list staggers the imagination and many do not apply because they cannot imagine surviving for a year or a year and a half in order to have a slot.

The necessity is to meet the financial needs of today. I think what I would really like to do is to paint a picture of what it is like in one of these families.

The two wages that parents now bring in is not sufficient to meet what one person used to earn. In fact, the two wages are usually half of what our parents were used to earning in Jefferson County. It means to them the loss of homes, their personal autos, insurance, both health and life insurance, often their furniture because when they are trying to make ends meet, they often use their furniture as collateral in order to get a loan to make do until things got better.

The social stigma for these families when they apply for job after job after job and do not receive them or receive a minimum wage job and are still losing everything that they have earned and stockpiled, is extremely traumatic. The loss of self-esteem, the depression that occurs with both males and females does again stagger the imagination. It is perhaps doubly compounding for single female heads of household and sometimes single male heads of household who carry the full burden alone. The end result is often emotional illness, depression and staggering proportions of alcohol and drug abuse as a way out or a brief period of relief. To often that abuse does become abuse.

I paint a picture today of the children who are raised in that environment. Poverty, lack of stability, emotional swings on the part of parents, parents who are so consumed with their own problems that they often cannot nurture the children and the children wonder what they have done to cause it.

We are watching tremendous changes in the local structure of care for children. Last year, in a four month period alone, Jefferson County was handling child protective services and we had a 25 percent increase in our findings of child abuse and neglect—25 percent in a 4-month period.

The problems that I am painting for you are the problems of the families that are in worse trouble, but we also have families who have not yet reached the bottom, who are the new poor and who are still struggling to make ends meet. They often feel they are fighting a losing battle. They do not have proper care for their children and they do not have a proper environment in which to place those children so that they can be nurtured, so that they can be mainstreamed, and until some form of normalcy can touch their lives. We desperately need day care for infants and toddlers. We need stimulation, we need balanced food and we need a society that offers children the opportunity to be nurtured and to know that they are important, that they are somebody and that they did not cause the troubles that they see around them.

We know that in Jefferson County alone, most of our children come in touch with alcohol at age 12½ years. That also is indicative of family problems, sometimes perhaps genetic and at other times the environment alone. The impact on the rest of those children's lives and the life cycle cost to our society to meet their needs again is one that I cannot fathom.

We know that in September of this year our commodity foods which support these families will be cut in half. We see a very dark picture and we really do not know how we are going to deal with it. That is why your presence here today is extremely important because it shows a real sense of caring coming from our congressional level of elected representatives.

I will submit written documents by Wednesday and I express my appreciation to you, and that of Judge Harvey Sloane, for allowing us the opportunity to participate.

Mr. **Kildee**. Thank you for your testimony. The Honorable Darryl Owens.

[The prepared statement of Sharon Wilbert follows:]

STATEMENT
OF
SHARON WILBERT, PROVIDING TESTIMONY FOR
HARVEY I. SLOANE, JEFFERSON COUNTY GOVERNMENT
STATE ALLIANCE FOR BETTER CHILD CARE
EXECUTIVE INN
APRIL 23, 1988

There has been an industrial revolution in our community. The precious jobs that once provided an adequate wage and long-term stability have slowly eroded. Some of our most well known industries are now history. They include Belknap and International Harvester. Also, major changes in the tobacco and alcohol industries have severely eroded our job base. These and many other corporations once provided jobs for our citizens that paid starting wages at $10 or more an hour, with the average wage ranging from $16 to $22 an hour. The change to service industry over the last 15 years has often produced only part-time positions that are minimum wage, with no fringe benefits. Very often the families that move from one of these factory jobs to the service industry now have two individuals working, making minimum wage and the total of those two wages do not equal what one wage earner used to make.

The adjustment for these families who have experienced these changes is extremely traumatic. It has meant the loss of homes, personal autos, insurance (including health and life coverage), their furniture, and often the total loss of shelter. The ability to pay rent and utilities is often an impossibility.

The result of this turmoil is that our children are living in poverty. We have families who reside permanently in trauma. One child in every four are born into poverty. One child in five, or 13 million in the United States, live in poverty. The implications for these children over the years and the life cycle costs to our society for the damage that is being done staggers the imagination. We are already reaping the harvest of our seeds in that we in Jefferson County experienced a 30% jump in child abuse and neglect cases in one four-month period in 1987. We have found that alcohol and drug use is more prevalent than ever and that it begins to invade the life of our children at an average age of 12-1/2 years. We also are aware that 80% of our high risk kids for alcohol and drug abuse come from single parent homes.

To further complicate matters we are expecting an additional reduction in commodities as our national supplies are exhausted. The impact of this food loss will be felt in September of 1988. We have the Jefferson County Child Care Subsidy Program which currently provides assistance for 52 families with 80 children. Seventy-eight percent (78%) of these children are in full-time care. Eighty-eight percent (88%) of the 46 households are single parents, and only 33% receive any other form of child support. The median income of these families is approximately $10,000 per year and we have 354 families on the waiting list. We are aware that the net gain to our local economy for every $1 spent on child care returns $7 to the community.

Our State provides 1,446 slots of day care for children. Eight hundred and ninety-seven (897) of these are provided to children who are under the watchful eye of Child Protective Services. Therefore, they have experienced abuse or neglect. Five hundred and forty-nine (549) are in the Priority 2 category which predominantly speaks to inadequate income. There are 8,000 families in our community with children under 6; 5,430 of these are female heads of households. We are cognizant that there is major deprivation existent in our local society and that day care is one of the major needs of our families, in order that parents can enter the employment market and become self sufficient. The quality of care provided to these individuals now will determine their productivity to our society and whether or not they are contributors or a drain on future generations.

Jefferson County Government strongly supports the Act for Better Child Care bill. We ask that Congress consider allowing local communities to have flexibility in providing these services and in partnering them with other helping programs. We also suggest that the local matching funds that are required may be prohibitive since we are already providing significant subsidy. We are pleased at the presence of the Congressional Committee in Jefferson County today and are aware that that is indicative of your sensitity to this issue and your concern for our families and their children.

Thank you for this opportunity to speak to the Committee.

Mr. Owens. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On behalf of the members of the county commission, we too would like to express our deep appreciation for your interest in coming to hear our comments on this very vital matter not only to residents of Jefferson County, but to the entire Nation.

As our society becomes more and more complex, our attention and concerns sometime seem to grow less and less for those who cannot help themselves—I speak now of our children. It is for this reason that I come before you today.

This plan is not just another request for money, it represents the serious attention we must give if we are to address and begin to correct those ills that have led us into the child care crisis here in Kentucky, and yes, in America. I support the Act for Better Child Care Services because it is a comprehensive plan to provide for our most important product—our children.

While I commend the child care services that are now being provided by licensed centers here in Jefferson County, I cannot overemphasize the fact that more is needed. Too many of our children remain at risk because of understaffed, overcrowded and non-licensed centers.

Up until now, our problem seems to have been one of conceptualizing the data that we already have at hand: staff inadequately prepared to care for youth; children abusing other children due to no supervision; unsanitary conditions; and lack of instructional programs for youth. These reports combined with the many accounts of tragic accidents and deaths that have resulted from young children who have been left at home to care for themselves, the rapid growing number of children who are dropped off at our public libraries where the staff is forced to serve as pseudo-sitters, and the many other children who are left unattended at parks and shopping malls to do whatever and fall prey to whomever until Mom completes her day's work, have caused us to awaken not only to the need for, but also to the urgency to do something. It has taken some 16 years to see this need, however, now we, the keepers of the children, are ready to correct those ills and make the way better for all.

I especially commend the Act for Better Child Care Services because it addresses the various dimensions of our child care crisis here in Jefferson County; 4-C's has done a study and prepared a report, and most of those findings have been conveyed to you by Alderman Mershon.

I would like to indicate that, as she talked about, there is a net gain to the economy of $7 for every dollar spent for child care subsidy in Louisville, $168,130 in tax funds plus $50,000 in charitable fundings. These facts speak for better for themselves, and with more that will be provided by the Act for Better Child Care Services, we will empower ourselves to do more.

The ABC targets on subsidizing funding for the growing number of low-income and moderate-income families which will help create opportunities for these persons to look for and obtain employment; thus, helping them to depend less and less on welfare assistance. It proposes more quantity and quality affordable care for the children, it aims to improve the licensing and training for the workers, it will allow for those issues that have been pushed aside for lack of money and expertise to be brought to the forefront.

I respectfully request and encourage the subcommittee to provide a line item for the Act for Better Child Care. We must not allow ourselves to sit back and continue to read of deaths as a result of unattended children, or the growing dependency on welfare because the cost of quality care is too expensive. Because our children—the leaders of tomorrow—are our most important product, I feel that the Act for Better Child Care is entitled to direct and assured funding today.

I strongly urge you and respectfully request that this be given the funding that is most vital to all the children in this country.

Mr. KILDEE. Thank you, Commissioner. The Honorable Paul Bather.

[The prepared statement of Hon. Darryl T. Owens follows:]

Statement
HON. DARRYL T. OWENS
"C" District Commissioner--Jefferson County
Before the
Subcommittee on Human Resources
on
The Act for Better Child Care Services
April 23, 1988

Mr. Chairman, Distinguished Members of the Subcommittee:

As our society becomes more and more complex, our attentions and concerns sometime seem to grow less and less from those who cannot help themselves--I speak now of our children. It is for this reason that I come before you today.

This plan is not just another request for money; it represents the serious attentions we must give if we are to address and begin to correct those ills that have led us into the child care crisis here in Kentucky, and yes, in American. I support the Act for Better Child Care Services because it is a comprehensive plan to provide for "our most important product" -- our children.

While I commend the child care services that are now being provided by licensed centers here in Jefferson County, I cannot overemphasize the fact that more is needed. Too many of our children remain "at risk" because of understaffed, overcrowded, non-licensed centers.

Up until now, our problem seems to have been one of conceptualizing the data that were already at hand:

--staff inadequately prepared to care for youth
--children abusing other children due to no supervision
--unsanitary conditions
--lack of instructional programs for youth

These reports combined with the many accounts of tragic accidents and deaths that have resulted from young children who have been left at home to care for themselves, the rapid growing number of children who are dropped at our public libraries where the staff is forces to serve as pseudo-sitters, and the many other children who are left unattended at parks and shopping malls to do whatever and fall prey to whomever until "MOM" completes her day's work have caused us to awaken not only to the need for, but also to the urgency to do something. It has taken some 16 years to see this need, however, now we--the keepers of the children--are ready to correct those ills and make the way better for all.

I especially commend the Act for Better Child Care Services because it addresses the various dimensions of our child care crisis here in Jefferson County. The Community Coordinated Child Care service presently reports:

--114 families with 162 children are served by their program. One hundred and thirty-five or 83% are in full time care. The rest are in before and After School Care. So far this year a total of 151 families with 202 children have been served on the Community Coordinated Child Care program.

--102 (89%) heads of households are single parents. Of these families only 21 or 21% receive any form of child support. The median income of families on the program is $10,218 per year. Twenty-six (26%) work at least 25 hours per week and are still below poverty level.

--104 (91%) are employed full-time. Two (1%) are full-time students and 8 (7%) are both students and employed.

--Parents are employed by over 64 different employers. With the exception of the City of Louisville and Jefferson County Government, no employer provided child care support services or subsidy.

--Families calling today face a minimum of a year long wait for services at current funding levels.

The 114 families being served by this subsidy program will return $1,147,389,00 to the local economy through their earnings this year. Based on the cost of subsidy program, one dollar ($1.00) in tax-funded child care subsidy returns five dollars ($5.00) to the local economy in parents' earnings. In addition, for every dollar spent on child care subsidy, two dollars ($2.00) are saved in family support entitlement programs such as AFDC and food stamps. That is a net gain to the economy of $7.00 for every dollar spent on child care subsidy in Louisville ($168,130 in tax funds plus $50,000 in charitable funding). These facts speak for themselves, and with more that will be provided by the Act for Better Child Care Services, we will empower ourselves to do more.

The ABC targets in on subsidizing funding for the growing number of low income and moderately income families which will help create opportunities for these persons to look for and obtain employment; thus, helping them to depend less and less on welfare assistance. It proposes more quality and quantity affordable care for the children; it aims to improve the licensing and training for the workers; it will allow for those issues that have been pushed aside for lack of monies and expertise to be brought to the forefront.

Statement
Owens of ABC
page three

I respectfully request and encourage the Subcommittee to provide a line item for the Act for Better Child Care. We must not allow ourselves to sit back and continue to read of deaths as result from unattended children, or the growing dependency on welfare because the cost of quality care is too expensive. Because our children--the leaders of tomorrow--are our "most important product," I feel that the Act for Better Child Care is entitled to direct and assured funding today.

THANK YOU.

Mr. **Bather**. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, Mr. Perkins and my good friend Congressman Mazzoli. I really would like to thank you for coming to Louisville.

I think this is a very important occasion because we are at a very critical stage in America and particularly this community vis-a-vis the role of society and parents. I think that child care probably is the leading edge of that debate.

As you know, the old adage about the mothers stay home and the fathers go to work is an old one and I think those myths have long been destroyed because of the need for women and men to work together to provide equal opportunity for their families as well as essential work for both parents.

I speak here today in a dual role. One is chairman of the Economic Development Committee of the Board of Aldermen as well as a member of the Appropriations Committee that has had to grapple with the need for day care.

Mr. **Kildee**. We understand your role then. The Appropriations Committee members are very powerful and very popular in Washington.

Mr. **Bather**. But I also speak to you today as a parent. I have the fortune and good luck to have twin sons who are 9 years old. They have been a blessing to me and probably the thing that gets me out of the bed every morning with a spring. But I went through the trauma personally nine years ago as a student at the University of Louisville and my wife was also a student at the university, of finding out one day that I was going to have twin sons. When you get over that trauma and the boys are here, my wife is a student and needs to go back to school, I am working and the question was what are we going to do with the children.

Well it is hard enough to have one child and have to deal with how to find child care for one sibling who is probably two months old, but try to find qualified, adequate, licensed day care for two children. Well I can say now after spending $50,000 over the past 9 years, that I have been very much helped by the 4-C Program and United Way in obtaining good child day care for my children. During that time I was the chairman of the board of St. Benedict Center, which is one of the better day care centers in Louisville, and my children started out in what they call the infant room and progressed through toddler and right up through the kindergarten program and presently they go to an after-school program that is funded currently by the Y and the Jefferson County Public School System. So I am really one of the beneficiaries of what I call good child care.

I would like to tell you that my children are well-rounded. The fact that they started child care at an early age, there is no witchcraft, the ladies that took care of my children took care of them better probably than their mother and father could because they had more experience. I had not ever had children before and my wife was not exactly the greatest parent. Nobody teaches parenthood. But those ladies counseled me, led me and helped me get through this traumatic period, and probably did more in terms of my overall economic development and well-being than any other school course could ever be. I think that there is a myth that we need to cut out. I know that child care has been good for my children, it as been great for my family and my wife is able to work. She is very happily employed and without child care, without these programs, I would not be able to be an Alderman and I would not be able to be a businessman in the community and make a contribution.

I think the legislation is great. I only would like again to echo the merits and sentiments in terms of coordination. You—we all know that there is a scarcity of funds available and that what we must do is coordinate the resources at the federal, state and local level. We must particularly involve the United Way. The United Way movement is the private sector contribution to this; United Way, which I am sure will testify later, provides a great deal of funds to day care in Jefferson County as well as across the country. And we must involve the public school systems because they take care of our children from kindergarten upward, so whatever you do in this legislation, I would like to see strong provisions for strong coordination and mobilization of resources that will not set up another mechanism which further—I would like to set up a mechanism that enhances coordination and make sure that the resources are put together in a positive and helpful manner.

I thank you for this opportunity to testify. My written statements will be forthwith very shortly. I again applaud you and the Congressmen for your efforts in this area. Thank you.

Mr. **Kildee**. Thank you very much. Can you stay for a while? We want to ask questions.

Mr. **Bather**. Yes.

Mr. **Kildee**. Ms. Elizabeth Grever.

[The prepared statement of Paul C. Bather follows:]

JUN 22 1988

TESTIMONY OF ALDERMAN PAUL C. BATHER REGARDING THE ACT BEFORE THE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEE CHAIRED BY REP. DALE KILTEE (D-MI)

Representative Kiltee, Representative Perkins, Representative Mazzoli, fellow elected officials, and to those of you in attendance, I appreciate you taking the time to hold this hearing in our community.

As a former Chairperson of the Board of Directors of the Saint Benedict Center and a parent, I can attest to the fact that our country is indeed experiencing a crisis in early childhood education/day care funding. With a reduced federal obligation, and increased reductions from our state and local government, our operators of early childhood education/day care centers have been forced to prioritize their decisions. This has resulted in decisions not based on what is best for the children, but upon what is the least painful in allocation of operating funds.

I have served as the Chairperson of an early childhood education/day care center that weathered the storm of reductions and "freezes" in funding. During 1984-87, we often turned away potential enrollees simply because no funds were available for subsidy. And rather than continue that disturbing trend, we decided to use our general funds and Metro United Way funds to subsidize tuition costs. This decision affected our ability to purchase basic supplies, to maintain the building and meet all applicable safety codes, and to remain a viable day care center in our community.

I personally salute the workers and staff of the Center because it was their tenacity that helped us survive. Thanks to an intense review of Center operations, we were able to continue to serve the children of our City. Without the support of local government for capital improvements, and the determination of the staff, our Center would be closed today.

And receiving funding cuts is not the only thing that places our early childhood/day care centers in peril today. Continued increases in liability insurance rates, utility costs, general operations, and staff salaries force us to offer in many instances, a "bare bones" educational establishment. There were times during my tenure as Chairperson that we had to use administrative staff to relieve educational staff simply because workers were "burnt out", sick, or on vacation. We all realize that this does not offer the level of service necessary to maintain a good operation. But we never really had the funds to retain a corps of substitute staff for emergencies.

I have read this bill and agree with you that we must do something about the crisis in early childhood education/day care today. As a local elected official, I have offered my support to the legislation and am prepared to lobby our representatives for passage of the ABC bill. The United Negro College Fund uses the motto "A Mind is a Terrible Thing to Waste" in its ad campaigns. I concur with that motto and would remark that "Time is Terrible Thing to Waste". Please take whatever actions are necessary to ensure passage of the ABC legislation.

You can rest assured that Alderman Paul C. Bather of Louisville, Kentucky will be one of the most ardent supporters for passage.

Thank you Congressman Mazzoli for bringing this hearing to Louisville.

Ms. Grever. Thank you. I have never decided whether it is better to go first or last because as you listen to the people, many of the things you thought you might say have already been covered, but I do still have a few.

I am the director of Community Coordinated Child Care——

Mr. Mazzoli. Libby, would you put that a little closer. The reporter apparently cannot hear very well and we want to get a good record.

Ms. Grever. 4-C is a resource and referral agency here in Jefferson County, and I think we are in a position to relate firsthand what is happening and what needs to happen in order to ensure that our children receive the care they need.

I wish to commend you, Congressman Kildee, for being a leader in introducing the Act for Better Child Care. I also want to thank you, Congressman Mazzoli and Perkins, for lending your support, and I hope that it will not be too long before our other Kentucky legislators will sign on the Bill.

As you said, the ABC bill is the first really comprehensive child care bill that has been introduced since 1971 when the Family Services Act was passed by both houses of Congress. Congress realized back then that a comprehensive program to meet the needs of families was essential. The act was vetoed by President Richard Nixon and we have been suffering the consequences ever since. The amount of money requested today in the ABC bill is actually less than was requested in 1971 in the Family Services Act.

We are experiencing an urgent cry from all over the country for the government to do something about this pressing need. I serve on many committees locally that address other crucial needs and hardly ever is child care not one of the problems. If it is the homeless families, it is the lack of child care or it is the lack of the ability to have child care while they look for jobs, that causes the families to be in the condition they are in today.

And just another example is the high rate of high school dropouts and lack of affordable child care is quite often the cause of the high school dropouts.

There are a couple of areas though that have not been talked about today that I would like to address in my testimony, and that is namely, staffing and standards of quality. More and more centers are voicing concerns every day over their inability to find qualified teachers and assistants. In fact, one center just related to me yesterday that it is very frightening that they cannot find staff and cannot find substitutes.

4-C recently conducted a survey of centers in Jefferson County to determine the working conditions of the staff. Fifty-six percent of the 1,300 workers that responded to our survey earned between $3 and $4 an hour. Another 26 percent earned between $4 and $5 an hour. Now it is not hard to understand why centers are having difficulty finding staff when 83 precent of the staff, regardless of training, education or longevity on the job are earning less than $5 an hour. Seventy percent of the workers had no health insurance. As we all know, 99 percent of child care workers are women, many of whom are living in poverty. A stable, reliable, loving staff is the most important element in determining the quality of child care. Staff costs account for——

Mr. Mazzoli. Libby, we are trying to find a microphone.

Ms. Grever. All my remarks have gone unheard, huh? [Laughter.]

Still we hear the same comments from everyone. If they raise staff salaries, then parent fees must be raised and already many families cannot afford the cost.

I have entered into my written testimony letters from two child care directors who very simply state that, that if they raise the salaries of their workers, they have to pass it on to the parents and the parents cannot afford it.

The drafters of the ABC bill took all this into account and allowed for an increase in wages. I think it is really ironic that the Federal program to train workers for available jobs, namely the Job Training Partnership Act, funds cannot be accessed to train child care workers because the salaries produced by those jobs do not quality for participation in the Job Training Partnership. The Job Training Partnership requires that they earn at least—well it was $4.25 an hour last year, it may be higher this year, and child care workers do not earn that much. Child care workers are paid less than zookeepers, they are paid less than worm growers, dogcatchers, parking lot attendants and many others. So we have to ask, you know, where are our priorities.

There is a very, very flaky description of what worm growers' responsibilities are.

Mr. Mazzoli. I was going to ask you that question.

Ms. Grever. Another area that I would like to address is that of standards. All across the United States there is a great variety in State licensing regulations, who must be licensed and the degree to which they are enforced. All children, regardless of where they live, deserve the same protection and assurance of quality. The Act for Better Child Care provides for minimum child care standards to all States, based on the median standards of all States. States will be given 5 years to comply with these standards and funds from the act can be used to enable the States to meet those standards. I certainly agree that standards should be imposed in order to ensure that our tax dollars are being used wisely. And the Act for Better Child Care certainly makes it possible for centers to comply with those standards.

We have often heard the remark that the staff work for low wages and poor benefits because they love children. That is all well and good, but as more and more families depend on a second income and many women are responsible for supporting a family, economic conditions prevent women from simply working because they love children. Child care is often mentioned as a job that would be suitable for mothers moving off welfare. Again, the pay is so low that it is not an acceptable option. Even in the Massachusetts E.T. Choices Program, which we hear a lot about, it is not one of the options in that program and they are better paid in Massachusetts than they are in Kentucky.

These are just a few of the things that we feel is a real problem and they are reaching the point where it is a problem in our community. We thank you and hope that you will push forward with the ABC bill in order to meet the needs of the children.

[The prepared statement of Elizabeth A. Grever follows:]

Community Coordinated Child Care
1355 South Third Street • Louisville, Kentucky 40208 • (502) 636-1358

Testimony by:
Elizabeth A. Grever
Executive Director
Community Coordinated Child Care
1355 South Third Street
Louisville, KY 40208
(502) 636-1358

On:
HB 3660 - The Act for Better Child Care

Presented to:
House Committee on Education and Labor
Subcommittee on Human Resources
Dale E. Kildee, Chairman

At the Field Hearing

Date:
April 23, 1988

Place:
Executive Inn
Louisville, KY

I am Libby Grever, Executive Director of Community Coordinated Child Care (4-C) here in Jefferson County. 4-C is a resource and referral agency for child care in this area and therefore we are in a position to relate first-hand what is happening and what needs to happen in order to insure that our children will receive the care they need and to meet the needs of families in our changing society.

I wish to commend you Congressman Kildee for being a leader in introducing the Act for Better Child Care. I also thank you Congressman Mazzoli and Perkins for giving your support. I hope that soon our other Kentucky legislators will co-sponsor the Bill. The ABC Bill is the first really comprehensive child care bill since 1971 when the Family Services Act was passed by both houses of Congress. Congress realized back then that a comprehensive program to meet the needs of families was essential. The Act was vetoed by then President Richard Nixon and we have been suffering the consequences ever since. The amount of money requested is less today than it was in 1971 and as you are aware the savings would far outweigh the cost.

Today, we are experiencing an urgent cry from all over the country for the federal government to do something about this pressing need. I have served on many committees addressing other crucial needs and lack of affordable day care has contributed to the cause of the problems such as homeless families and high school drop outs.

You have heard testimony from several of our City and County officials about the local need. I would like to address my testimony mainly to two areas: namely - staffing and standards of quality.

More and more centers are voicing concerns over their inability to find qualified teachers and assistants. We conducted a survey of center in Jefferson County to determine the working conditions of center staff. Fifty six percent (56%) out of 1,300 workers responding earned between $3 and $4 an hour. Another 26% earned between $4 and $5 an hour. It is not hard to understand why there is difficulty hiring staff when 83% regardless of training, education or longevity on the job are earning less than $5.00 an hour. Seventy percent (70%) had no health insurance. As we all know ninety nine percent (99%) of child care workers are women and many are living in poverty. A stable, reliable, loving staff is the most important element in determining the quality of child care. Because it is a labor intensive business staff cost account for 60 to 80% of the entire budget. If wages were raised, parent fees must be raised and already most families cannot afford the cost.

The drafters of the ABC Bill took this into account and allowed for an increase in wages. I think it is ironic that the federal program to train workers for available jobs, namely the Job Training Partnership Agency funds cannot be used to train child care staff because the salaries paid do not meet their minimum requirements while at the same time child day care is one of the fastest growing industries in the country. Child care workers are paid much less than zoo keepers, worm growers, dog catchers and many others. Aren't children more important than animals and worms?

The high turnover rate among child care workers is another cause for concern that definately affects the quality of care children receive. In our survey 63% of the workers had been on the job less than three years. For many it is just to fill in until a better job comes along. Another area I would like to address is that of standards. All across the United States there is a great variety in State Licensing Regulations, who must be licensed, and the degree to which they are enforced. All children regardless of where they live deserve the same protection and assurance of quality. The Act for Better Child Care provides for minimum child care standards based on the median standards for all states. States will be given five years to comply with there standards and funds from the Act can be used to enable the states to meet these standards. I certainly agree that standards should be imposed in order to insure that our tax dollars are being used wisely.

I would like to enter into my testimony letters from two private day care operators who state what they perceive as their greatest need. I think the statements they make about needing to raise teacher's salairies and if they do, they will have to raise parents' fees and their parents cant't afford to pay anymore really gets to the heart of the problem. Our whole child care system needs help and so we must work for passage of the ABC Bill for the good of all our children regardless of what state they live in. As you are aware, the problem is not going away but will continue to compound and we must do something about it now. We are looking to legislators such as you who have made this commitment to accomplish this for the families and their children in this country.

We have often heard the remark that the staff work for the low wages and poor benefits because they love children. That's all well and good but as more and more families depend on a second income and many women are responsible for supporting a family, economic conditions prevent women from working simply out of love for children. Ninety nine percent of all staff in child care are women and many of them are women with young children. Child care is often mentioned as a job that would be suitable for moving mothers off welfare. Again the pay is so low that it is not a viable option. Even in the Massachusetts E. T. Choices Program, child care is not one of the options even though salaries are higher there than in other states.

Again, thank you for your concern for young children.

Alice In Wonderland Day Care Center
3115 VIRGINIA AVENUE, LOUISVILLE, KY 40211
(502) 774-5660

April 22, 1988

The Honorable Ron Mazzoli
551A Federal Building
Federal Place
Louisville, KY 40202

Dear Congressman Mazzoli:

I support this ABC bill with the belief that more money will go into day cars. My center is located in a low-income area and I depend on Purchase of Care children.

I particularly need the monies to raise salaries, which will enable the center to hire qualified workers, and when salary standards are raised, I will definitely need more money.

Sincerely yours,

Odessa Greer

Odessa Greer, Director/Owner
Alice in Wonderland

OG:rm

Creative Learning Child Care Center
2312 Glenmary Avenue
Louisville, Kentucky 40204
(502) 458-5068

4/21/88

Dear Ms Greuer,

I would like to state my support for the Act for Better Child Care. (HR3660 & S1885) As the owner & director of a child care center for the previous 10 years, I have seen the costs of operating a quality facility sky rocket. These costs must, of course, be passed onto my customers, with the effect being that first rate child care is becoming a privilege of the elite instead of the right of each child. It is my understanding that the ABC bill would provide approximately 75% of the total allocation of subsidies for child care for working parents. This would be a boon in rectifying this growing societal problem.

Another area of great concern to everyone in the child care industry is the horrifyingly low wage scale. Due to the high overhead involved in child care & the labor intensive nature of the industry, salaries remain at the minimum wage level. It is extremely difficult to attract qualified staff who are willing or can afford, to work for minimum wages. These people are being penalized because they choose to nurture & educate the children of this country! Without some sort of government subsidies to the industry this situation cannot be satisfactorily resolved.

Sincerely,
Susan V. Wessels

Mr. **Kildee**. Thank you very much, Ms. Grever, for your testimony. I have a few questions here. Some charge or fear, as we heard in some testimony on Thursday, that child care in general, no matter who subsidizes it, is not profamily, that it tends to weaken the family.

Mr. Bather, you mentioned your circumstances. Do you feel that the child care which was provided for your twins, your family, helped you be a better parent or a weaker parent?

Mr. **Bather**. Yes, Mr. Chairman, I have heard that. I think that is a myth that I would really like to address because in many ways—it is kind of like witches. Everybody says you cannot vote for this because this is antifamily.

My family, at that point—and I am sure most of you have got children, but when you have twins it is a unique situation, particularly since, as I said, I was going to school, I was working part time and my wife was in school, and obviously we did not plan it but it kind of happened. We were in crisis. It was both from the adjustment I think to becoming a parent of two children, I think another variable was the fact that we did not really have the support systems in place to be able to look for the children—care for the children.

At first we hired a lady, because you can always bring somebody in, right, to help. I found that it was very difficult because most people really do not want to do that kind of work and there was—while they would say they like to do that, they did not have the training, they did not have the experience and in many ways it was just babysitting and my children just laying there and there was no stimulation whatsoever. So that was completely unacceptable.

We then—because another concern was the stimulation of our children. We then looked around and said well lets see if we can find a location. Well I found there just were not any—there were only like two or three programs in the whole city that had infant programs. It also turned out that—one of those programs I went and I was really amazed at how poor the program was. It was one of these—and please do not take this wrong—it was affiliated with the church and it just did not meet the standards that I wanted for my children.

The other two programs were first class programs; one again was church affiliated and the other one was a United Way program. Well, the waiting lists were incredible and that proved to be very frustrating. Fortunately, the director of the program, when she understood my crisis—and the crisis really was on my wife because school was going to start again, which meant she would probably have to sit out a year and this was very important for her wanting to go back to school. And it really was a—it kind of made her very depressed and plus, as you know, after you have children there is a certain amount of depression anyhow. I was really seriously considering, you know, what was I going to do to handle this situation.

I remember sitting down with the director and pleading, I mean really truly pleading and saying you have got to help me. There are no other opportunities, no other resources for me. I was under a great deal of stress at that time as a parent. So she, I guess, took pity on me or whatever and moved in some—I guess child care juggling and was able to move some children up to the toddler room and create an opportunity in the infant room.

Well during my time that year, my children also had allergies, bad allergies, so they had a lot of illness and high temperatures, vomiting and things of that nature. We, of course, went to a lot of doctors and everything else and nobody really knew what the problem was. But at the center, they took care of those children during the day and they were not ill in the sense that they could not go to the child care center because they were not contagious or anything like that, it was just that they were—they could not keep food down.

Well they knew, the staff knew more about the problem and how to deal with the problem than I did or my wife, and they were a great source of what I call practical counseling to me and my wife in terms of how to, you know, work with children that are in distress. I would say overall I am very appreciative because they held my family together, they held me together, they held my hand and my wife's hand through a very difficult crisis.

So I would say that my experience in this situation would be that professional child care workers in day care centers are, to me, very helpful even today as a parent. I am struggling now to find out what am I going to do with my children for the summer and am looking around for a camp program. And I have found that these people have helped me in terms of working, in terms of the homework situation. And my children—I am sorry I did not bring them, but they are very well-rounded children, people who have met my kids see that they are very alert. And my family could not be where we are today but for child care.

Mr. **Kildee**. So you would say your family was strengthened rather than weakened by child care.

Mr. **Bather**. Yes.

Ms. **Grever**. I do not have children, but my children are going to have children in day care.

I would just like to say that I think that day care many times today plays a role of extended families, because we do not see the family neighborhood support systems for families that we used to have. If the grandparents are able, they are working themselves and are not there. And day care, many times, is the extended family today. I think that the people who take their children to day care form relationships with the teachers and the children with the children that are lasting. It is a very mobile society and it does provide the outlet for many families today.

[Applause.]

Mr. **Kildee**. On a personal note. I have not had twins but I am Irish and I have Irish twins. Irish twins are two children less than 12 months apart. [Laughter.]

Mr. Mazzoli.

Mr. **Mazzoli**. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

I do not want to prolong this, I know everybody wants to get away, but I just have one question of Libby. If you could, either today or perhaps for our record within a couple of weeks, tell me what conditions might have changed since 1972 when President Nixon vetoed that bill, which was called the Family Assistance Act—which I remember very well and voted for—to persuade this

President or some other President not to veto the bill? What would persuade some President to be more disposed and sympathetic to this kind of bill where maybe that President in 1972 was not? Has anything changed?

Ms. **Grever**. It has just gotten worse, the increase in the number of parents who are in the work force.

Mr. **Mazzoli**. Can that be quantified? Could you supply that for the record?

Ms. **Grever**. Yes, sure, I would be glad to.

Mr. **Mazzoli**. How many women with children say six or younger were working in 1972 compared to how many are working in 1988 or could be working in 1995.

Ms. **Grever**. Surely.

Mr. **Mazzoli**. The Chairman has pretty much recited those figures but I would like to have them further underscored here.

Ms. **Grever**. I might add that President Nixon made a statement prior to vetoing that bill, that what this country needed was a comprehensive child care bill.

Mr. **Mazzoli**. Because that really was a facet of the welfare reform bill rather than a specific separate child care bill.

Ms. **Grever**. That is right.

Mr. **Mazzoli**. So maybe he was not vetoing the whole thing because of that, but it would be helpful, I think, for the record just to show what a professional like yourself who has seen this whole thing evolve, and as a mother yourself, what conditions are different now that would persuade this Congress, this President, to support the bill.

Lastly, Mr. Chairman, I have met—I have seen Paul's children grow up. I have seen these youngsters from the time they were little, coming to various meetings, and now they are 9 years old. I did not realize they were quite that old, to tell you the truth. But they are very alert children; I think you would find that they are very well adjusted and very well on the way to becoming excellent citizens.

Mr. **Kildee**. Thank you.

Mr. Perkins.

Mr. **Perkins**. Well I would love to think you are talking about one's children. I was starting to think of my own here. I have a little 11-month old, cutest thing you ever saw in the world, blond hair, blue-eyed thing and we have got something else in the oven, so to speak——[Laughter.]

So I am eagerly anticipating what arrives. The doctor took three measurements the other day and said it was very big. I am looking forward to seeing what that—they keep talking about twins—who knows.

But you know, this is something that I would like a little bit of a comment on. I make a decent living, I am not convinced that I make as good a living as I would like to, but certainly I do pretty well. And you know, in my personal situation with an eight year old wandering around and an 11-month-old, my wife trying to go to college, I find that there is real severe coordination problems in terms of trying to provide adequate child care for my children at the same time that I am out wandering across America or eastern Kentucky and Washington, wherever I have to be. And it poses a fundamental question that I think the administration has raised and that we are going to have to grapple with, as we had to grapple with on the College Student Loan Program.

You know, it is the belief of this committee, and I think the chairman, and many of us, that a child care program has got to be extended to the middle class. It is not merely a program that should be designed for those in pockets of poverty, though by all means we have to have access—as I said earlier with coordination programs, we have got to begin to deal with the fundamental problems of poverty through this. But I would like to hear some comments as to what you think of the middle class—what role should this program play in fact for today's middle class.

Mr. **Bather**. Let me say that I guess at the point when I was in school and I had student loans—and that is important, understand that—I did not grow up in a middle class family, I grew up in not necessarily a poor, poor family but I guess I grew up in what I would call a marginal family that both parents were not even high school graduates and I was the first to graduate to college and went on a student loan, and went to graduate school and all those good things.

Well, again, because of the program, the Title XX program, and I was in school but I still did not, as a middle-class person at that point, if that program had not been open to me, then I probably would not be again sitting here. I think that the middle class, both in what I call the aspiring middle class, those people who are right on the borderline, need assistance desperately. And you know, blacks and women, single parents that face discrimination, desperately need the opportunity for good day care because that is a way again for creating economic opportunity for women and minorities that all the legislation, civil rights legislation, while you can create opportunity, unless there is an automobile or vehicle to assure that, you are not going to achieve parity and equity in the society.

Women today are about the business of taking care of business. And child care is an essential part of making that happen.

Ms. **Grever**. I think too, another issue is, that you pointed out, it is not only sometimes not the ability to pay but the availability of the center being there or being accessible to the families. I think the ABC Bill should address that by allowing for the development of needed day care in the community, whether it is for the upper income or middle income or the lower income. Then I think the sliding fee scale, the sliding fee subsidy program will address many of the needs of the middle class because it is based on family size and income and goes up to 115 percent of the median income. Our current subsidy programs cut off at 60 percent of the median income for the State and at 80 percent for the city and county, and in those conditions it is better for a family not to even take a raise if they have to start paying the full cost of child care.

So the availability plus the partial payment is important and will address some of the needs of the middle income.

Mr. **Perkins**. Thank you.

Mr. **Kildee**. On that point, what we lack in this country is an adequate infrastructure for child care. It is very difficult for some parents, poor or middle class, sometimes to find even inadequate child care. Very often you go out looking for any type of child care.

You are almost desperate, it is not always based upon whether you are rich or poor or middle class. I find parents in my city, and they can afford child care, desperately trying to find even mediocre child care. We do not have an infrastructure. Hopefully—and that is why we put this at 115 percent of the statewide median income, we will begin to build up an infrastructure and maybe get more people going into the child care profession so we have that care available for everybody.

Mr. **Kildee**. I think Mr. Perkins' question is really a very important one for that reason.

Mr. Mazzoli.

Mr. **Mazzoli**. I have no questions. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. **Kildee**. I know that Mary Jane is not a member, but she is representing the minority—Mary Jane, do you have any questions?

Ms. **Fiske**. No, not now. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. **Kildee**. Thank you very much for your testimony this morning. We will take about a three-minute recess.

[Recess.]

Mr. **Kildee**. The subcommittee will reconvene. Our next panel consists of the Honorable Walter Blevins, Jr., State representative from Morehead, KY; Ms. Fran Fleming, director of The Caring Connection, Louisville, KY; Ms. Cleda Lawson, Floyd County Development Child Care Project, Prestonburg, KY; Ms. Linda Locke, advocacy director, Community Coordinated Child Care; and Ms. Mavis Higgs, director of St. Alban's Episcopal Church Child Care Center, Louisville, KY.

Mr. Walter Blevins.

STATEMENTS OF HON. WALTER BLEVINS, JR., STATE REPRESENTATIVE, MOREHEAD, KY; FRAN FLEMING, DIRECTOR, THE CARING CONNECTION, LOUISVILLE, KY; CLEDA LAWSON, FLOYD COUNTY DEVELOPMENT CHILD CARE PROJECT, PRESTONBURG, KY; LINDA LOCKE, ADVOCACY DIRECTOR, COMMUNITY COORDINATED CHILD CARE; AND MAVIS HIGGS, DIRECTOR, ST. ALBAN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH CHILD CARE CENTER, LOUISVILLE, KY

Mr. **Blevins**. I would like to thank Chairman Kildee, Congressman Perkins and Congressman Mazzoli for being here in Kentucky. We have a problem in Kentucky on child care.

I am a dentist in Morehead and a State representative representing Morgan County, Rowan County plus Lawrence and Lewis Counties.

I am very concerned about child care and just want to have sponsored legislation to try to do something about it. I am also very appreciative of the interest of Congress. It is going to take some Federal help, especially in States similar to Kentucky and West Virginia.

Mr. **Kildee**. Would you pull the microphone real close.

Mr. **Blevins**. All right. We have a problem in that we have many low-wage jobs in eastern Kentucky, and I am basically speaking about eastern Kentucky. Congressman Perkins is well aware of this and I think he can reiterate the problem we have.

Oftentimes single parents cannot make enough money to afford child care. Oftentimes because of the low wage scales we have in eastern Kentucky and throughout Kentucky, it is very difficult for two-parent families to make enough to put food on the table and send the children to school and do those types of things. And without parents being able to work, they are just locked out and become welfare cases oftentimes.

In October 1986, the four counties that I represent were serving only 36 families in the Title XX Purchase of Day Care Program. There are many families who desperately need help with day care funding so that they can work. The department of social services office that serves my area has not been able to serve any new low-income working families this fiscal year.

We also have a need for additional day care slots in my district as well as the entire Seventh Congressional District. My district had 279 day care slots in January, 1987, but we had 1330 women in the work force with children under the age of 6.

I am attaching to my testimony Title XX Purchase of Day Care data for the area development districts which roughly are within the Seventh Congressional District. In a 1-year period of time we were serving 64 less children than the year before because of the scarce funds in this State. We have only been able to additionally serve 21 new families in this area between July and December 1987.

The day care needs in Kentucky are great and must compete with other human services for funds. In Kentucky, those funds are always short, being a rural State and being a very poor State.

I support your efforts on this very important issue of day care and I assure you there are other people in the Kentucky General Assembly other than myself who are very much concerned about this issue. I think if you will make these funds available on the Federal level, we will do our part to match these funds on the statewide level.

Mr. KILDEE. Thank you very much. Ms. Fran Fleming.

[The prepared statement of Dr. Walter Blevins, Jr., follows:]

Testimony by: Dr. Walter Blevins, Jr., DMD
71st District
1024 Gregory Court
Morehead, KY 40351

On: HB 3660 - The Act for Better Child Care

Presented to: House Committee on Education and Labor
Subcommittee on Human Resources
Dale E. Kildee, Chairman

At the Field Hearing

Date: April 23, 1988

Place: Executive Inn
Louisville, KY

I would like to thank Chairman Kildee, Congressman Perkins and Congressman Mazzoli for scheduling this field hearing on the Act for Better Child Care (H.R.3660).

I am Dr. Walter Blevins, Jr., DMD - State representative from the 71st district which covers Lawrence, Lewis, Morgan and Rowan counties in the 7th Congressional district.

I am very concerned about the ability of our state to meet the day care needs of low-income families without help from the federal level.

In October, 1986 the four counties I represent were serving only 36 families in the Title XX Purchase of Day Care program according to information submitted to the Appropriation and Revenue Subcommittee on Human Resources in February, 1987. There are many families who desperately need help with day care funding so that they can work. The Department of Social Services office that serves my area has not been able to serve any new low-income working families this fiscal year.

We also have a need for additional day care slots in my district as well as the entire 7th District. My district had 279 day care slots in January, 1987 but had 1,330 women in the workforce with children under 6.

I am attaching to my testimony Title XX Purchase of Day Care data figures from the area development districts which roughly are within the 7th Congressional district. In a one year period of time, we were serving 64 less children than the year before because of scarce funds. We have only been able to additionally serve 21 new working families in this area between July, 1987 and December, 1987.

The day care needs in Kentucky are great and must compete with other human services for funds that are always short. This bill's provision will greatly alleviate this problem in Kentucky. I support your efforts and leadership on this issue.

I will be glad to answer any questions you may have.

Attachment

Combined Data for the Area Development Districts of:

Buffalo Trace, Gateway, FIVCO, Big Sandy and Kentucky River

Clients Served Title XX Purchase of Day Care Program

Total children served 10/86: 330

Priority I (Protection): 154

Priority II (Working Families): 93

Total children served 10/87: 266

Priority I (Protection): 173

Priority II (Working Families): 93

Waiting Lists/Requests for Service (7-1-87 to 12-31-87):

276 families with 378 children

New Clients approved for Priority II (Working families - July, 1987 through December 31, 1987):

21 families with 26 children

1980 census - Number of women in workforce with children under 6:

12,292

Number of licensed child care slots available: 2,968

These districts approximately meet the boundries of the 7th Congressional district.

Ms. **Fleming**. Thank you very much.

I appear before you this morning wearing several hats. First as a representative of the Jefferson County Attorney's Office. There we serve mothers who are seeking help collecting child support. I am also here as the director of The Caring Connection, which is a free educational program for latch-key children and their parents. And I am here as an active member of four boards, all of which are working on positive prevention programs on child abuse and neglect.

As an 8-year advocate of prevention programs, I am concerned that much of the prevention focus is placed upon scars and bruises that have been inflicted upon children by individuals. Yet, collectively we allow our nation to abuse and neglect our children by either ignoring or by moving to slowly upon an issue of such great importance, and that is the care and nurturing of our country's most precious resource—our children.

A recent area study has revealed that for a single parent with two preschool children to be minimally self-sufficient, she would have to have $7 an hour working 40 hours a week. When a parent is forced to choose between paying the rent, paying the utilities, putting food on the table and child care, guess which is the first to go.

In last night's issue of Newsweek, it was reported that in 1986 there were only 40,000 day care centers and 105,000 licensed day care homes watching over 2 million children. Millions of other children were sent to unregulated homes or left unsupervised.

In our community, more than 75 percent of the mothers of school age children are in the work force. Many of them have chosen to leave their children at home unattended, sometimes it is because they feel they have no option. But what they do feel, and feel very deeply, is guilt. Guilt is the common thread that we see in the thousands of parents that we have served in our latch-key program. Parents today feel isolated and frustrated, knowing that they do not have the built-in support systems enjoyed by past generations. The majority of the parents we have encountered in our program came home as children to the mom with milk and cookies scene. It was secure and comforting to them. Now they are enmeshed with the guilt they feel because they cannot provide that same kind of security and comfort for their children.

When I first initiated the latch-key program 5 years ago, I received a call from a mother who wanted to enroll her 7-year-old son because she felt that he could better care for a 5-year-old, a 3-year-old and a 1-year-old. Just a few weeks ago, I encountered an 11-year old girl who was frustrated because she had difficulty caring each night for an infant and 2-year-old twins. She knew that she was doing something wrong because she felt so overwhelmed by all this. She expressed her concerns to her mother but the mother felt there was no option because she could not afford child care.

Our latch-key program encourages children to share with their parents how they feel about being home alone. It is staggering the number of children who protect their parents from their feelings of fear and isolation. Children sense that their parents cannot afford better situations and they do not like to let their parents down.

I feel that the real beauty of our Nation is reflected in the images of our children, not only for the way we perceive and regard them, but for the way they perceive and regard themselves. They are the most precious of our natural resources. They are our endangered species. Help us preserve and protect them.

[The prepared statement of Frances Diana Fleming follows:]

TESTIMONY OF FRANCES DIANA FLEMING

I appear before you this morning, wearing several hats.

First, as a representative of Jefferson County Attorney Mike Conliffe's office. There, we serve tens of thousands of mothers who are seeking help collecting delinquent child support. I am also here as the director of The Caring Connection, a free, educational program for latchkey children and their parents. And, as a consultant to The Latchkey Alliance, and intergenerational program that warmly links seniors to latchkey families.

And, I'm here as an active member of four boards—The Kentucky Council on Child Abuse, CARES, Inc., the Family focus Campaign, and WAVE 3's For Kids Sake Council—all of which are working on positive prevention programs in child abuse and neglect.

As an eight-year advocate of prevention programs, I am concerned that much of the prevention focus is placed upon the scars and bruises that have been inflicted upon our children, by individuals. Yet, collectively, we allow our nation to abuse and neglect her children each day by either ignoring, or by moving too slowly upon an issue of such great importance: That is: The Care and Nurturing of our country's most precious resource—Our Children.

A recent area study has revealed that for a single parent with two pre-school children to provide a marginal existence for her family, she would have to earn $7 an hour working 40 hours a week.

When a parent is forced to choose betwen paying the rent, paying the utilities, putting food on the table and child care—Guess which is the first to go?

In last month's issue of Newsweek, it was reported that in 1986 there were only 40,000 day care centers and 105,000 licensed day care homes watching over 2 million children. Millions of other children were sent to unregulated homes, or left unsupervised.

In our community, more than 75 percent of the mothers of school-age children are in the workforce. Many of them have chosen to leave their children home, unattended. Often, it is because they feel they have no option. But, what they DO feel, and feel, very deeply, is Guilt.

Guilt is the common thread that weaves together the thousands of parents who have been served by our latchkey program. And, our parents today feel more isolated and frustrated, knowing that they don't have the built-in family support systems enjoyed by past generations. The majority of the parents we've encountered through our program, came home, as children, to the Mom-and-milk-and-cookies scene. It was secure and confronting to them.

Now, they are enmeshed with the guilt they feel because they cannot provide the same sense of security and comfort for their children. However, there are some parents who lack the sensitivity, and empathy for their children. When I first initiated the latchkey program five years ago, I received a call from a mother who wanted to enroll her 7 year-old in our program. She felt our program would teach her child to better care for a 5 year-old a 3 year-old and a 1 year old!

Just a few weeks ago, I listened to an 11 year-old girl, who was frustrated with herself because she had such difficulty caring each night for an infant and 2 year-old twins! She knew that SHE was doing something wrong because she felt overwhelmed so much of the time! She had expressed her concerns to her mother, but mother felt there was no option. She couldn't afford child care.

Our latchkey program, The Caring Connection, encourages children to tell their parents how they feel about being home alone. It is staggering the number of children who protect their parents from their feelings of fear and isolation. Children often sense that their parents cannot afford a better situation and they don't want to let their parents down. I deeply feel that the real beauty of our nation is reflected in the images of our children. Not only for the way we perceive and regard them, but for the way they perceive and regard themselves.

They are the most precious of our natural resources. They're our endangered species. Help us preserve and protect them.

January 15, 1988

HUGH DOWNS: Good evening, I'm Hugh Downs.

BARBARA WALTERS: And I'm Barbara Walters. And this is 20/20.

ANNOUNCER: On the ABC newsmagazine, 20/20, with Hugh Downs and Barbara Walters. Tonight. Typical teenagers, repeating insults hurled by many parents.

1st TEENAGER: Don't you pull your emotional crap with me, 'cause I have no pity for you!

ANNOUNCER: Not just occasional outbursts, but constant verbal abuse.

2nd TEENAGER: My father used to say all the time, "If it weren't for you goddam no-good kids, I could be happy."

ANNOUNCER: It's a problem newly identified.

PARENT: You're pathetic.

ANNOUNCER: Emotional abuse that can rip families apart. Stone Phillips with a provocative report we all need to see, "How We Turn Our Kids Away." Film critics Siskel and Ebert: They're better known than many of the stars they review. They love their jobs, yet seem to hate each other.

SISKEL: It's been my mission since I was 23 years old to beat him.

EBERT: We didn't speak to each other at all the first nine years that we knew each other.

ANNOUNCER: How did such an unlikely duo ever get a show all their own? Lynn Sherr inside the world of "Siskel & Ebert." Listen to the sounds of an airplane heading for disaster. "No, this is an approach to the goddamned left ... Jesus Christ." A U.S. jetliner had crashed in Mexico. An American pilot was blamed. Now, evidence of a cover-up. Tom Jarriel with a survivor obsessed with knowing the truth. "What Happened To Flight 2605?"

DOWNS: Tonight, the story of a man haunted by a memory, and a real-life vision of hell. It had been with him for eight years, and he finally felt he had to write us about it. It had to do with an airplane crash that made headlines in 1979.

WALTERS: It did indeed. The only consolation we can ever take from plane disasters is learning how to prevent future ones. And I think all of us assume that always, every effort is made to find out what went wrong. Cover-up? A failure to really investigate? Well, not if it's a U.S. airline. That's what we think. But tonight, Tom Jarriel shows us that isn't always the case.

What Happened To Flight 2605?

TOM JARRIEL *[voice-over]*: Ed Valenciana is rather old for the crew team at Loyola Marymount University in Los Angeles. For that matter, at 35, he's rather old to be a senior in college studying classical literature. For the past eight years, Ed's been trying to put his life back together, battling hellish memories of what happened October 31, 1979. That night Ed was a flight attendant aboard Western Airlines Flight 2605 from Los Angeles to Mexico City, a flight known as the "Night Owl." Ninety passengers were on board. Everything seemed normal until the aircraft started its descent into Mexico City. Dense fog shrouded the airport, and there was another problem. The standard runway for international landings, 23 Left, had just been closed, with heavy equipment on the runway. All flights were being rerouted to a parallel runway, number 23 Right. Captain Charles Gilbert was flying the aircraft, a route he had flown 350 times before. But just before touchdown, Captain Gilbert was clearly confused about what runway to land on. Listen to the cockpit recorder, heard publicly for the first time.

PILOT: "We're cleared on the right. Is that correct?"

CO-PILOT: "The other runway."

PILOT: "This is the approach to the goddamned left."

JARRIEL *[voice-over]*: The crew tried to abort the landing, but it was too late.

WALTERS: In the final analysis, we are each film critics. I like Barbra Streisand, and I liked *Nuts*, so you pays your money and takes your choice. Thank you, Lynn.

DOWNS: Well, next, it happens without their even realizing it. Parents, shattering their children's self-esteem. Stone Phillips reports words can be "How We Turn Our Kids Away." Stay tuned for this.

[Commercial break]

DOWNS: How would you feel if somebody turned to you and said, "You are really stupid. You're too stupid to even understand what I'm saying. I'm sick of you." Well, that's the kind of unthinking statement that many parents blast their kids with. Up to now we've heard of child abuse, and we've thought of it in terms of physical and sexual abuse. But recently, experts have become concerned about emotional abuse. It's much more common, and it's how many parents are turning their kids away. But Stone Phillips reports that, along with the new awareness, comes innovative programs to keep parent-child relationships intact.

STONE PHILLIPS *[voice-over]*: Tonight, as many as two million teenagers in this country have left their families, and are living on the streets. This is the sad evidence of something going wrong in our families, something going wrong between parents and their children. What can possibly make kids choose a life like this, looking for shelter in an old abandoned trailer, some resorting to prostitution to stay alive? Some of these kids are running from physical and sexual abuse at home, but many are running away from something else just as painful.

[TV Commercial] **1st PARENT**: You're pathetic. You can't do anything right.

2nd PARENT: You disgust me. Just shut up.

PHILLIPS *[voice-over]*: It's called emotional abuse, dramatized in this television commercial by the National Committee for prevention of Child Abuse.

[TV Commercial] **1st PARENT**: Why don't you go find some other place to live?

ANNOUNCER: Words hit as hard as a fist. Stop and listen to what you're saying.

1st PARENT: I wish you were never born.

[Dramatization]

"CHILD": I'm sorry, I really tried. What else do you want from me? I'm doing my best.

"PARENT": Don't you pull your emotional crap with me, 'cause I have no pity for you, 'cause I'm not proud of you, because you disappoint me all the time.

COUNSELOR: Emotional abuse! Change!

PHILLIPS *[voice-over]*: This teenage workshop, sponsored by a New York City group called Citykids, is part of a new national campaign against the emotional abuse of children.

MATILDA CUOMO, New York Governor's Wife: Emotional abuse is very serious, because as a bad habit, it really demeans the child to a point where they lose their self-esteem.

PHILLIPS *[voice-over]*: Matilda Cuomo, wife of the governor of New York, helped organize this workshop to focus public attention on the problem.

2nd "PARENT": I could care less what your problem is. You don't think I have problems of my own?

3rd "PARENT": You're so stupid. I can't believe you're my son.

Mrs. CUOMO: And they feel worthless. And then you find them dropping out of school, running away. They go into taking drugs and alcohol just to stifle the pain that they're feeling.

2nd "CHILD": Look, I really need to speak with you.

3rd "PARENT": Look, I'm going to say it again. I'm trying to read the paper.

2nd "CHILD": Dad, you're always reading the paper, you're always working, you're always doing something, but there's never no time for me, and I just want to talk.

3rd "PARENT": Don't you understand? I've had a bad day. I'm trying to read the paper.

PHILLIPS *[voice-over]*: How is emotional abuse different from a normal outburst of anger that happens with all parents? Child psychologist Dr. James Barbarino.

Dr. JAMES GARBARINO, Child Psychologist: What we're concerned about here is patterns in the way kids are treated. Every opportunity to use something against a child being taken, and sticking the knife or turning the screw. A pattern of disregard, a pattern of humiliation, a pattern of undermining the child's sense of self-worth.

PHILLIPS: Very few parents want to demean their children, and yet they find themselves doing it, time and again, lashing out with hurtful words that humiliate their kids. Many parents don't realize what they're doing, and even those who do see the damage they're doing to their kids often find it very difficult to stop.

GAIL, Member, Parents Anonymous: I would say, "I wish I never had you," "If I had to do it all over again I would never have you."

PHILLIPS *[voice-over]*: Gail, a single mother of a 10-year-old son, is a member of Parents Anonymous, a group that helps parents who know they are mistreating their children and don't understand why.

GAIL: My criticism was not nice. And it was one of those, what, are you stupid, you don't know how to do this?

PHILLIPS *[voice-over]*: Gail knew she was hurting her son with her words. She saw the impact on him.

GAIL: He started to withdraw from me.

PHILLIPS: Stay in his room, not talk to you?

GAIL: Right. Nothing to say. I'd say, "How was your day?" and you'd get a shrug of the shoulders.

PHILLIPS *[voice-over]*: To help these parents understand why they behave the way they do towards their children, Parents Anonymous asks them to look back at the parenting they received as children, because people really learn to parent from their own parents.

CRYSTAL, Member, Parents Anonymous: My father used to say all the time, "If it weren't for you goddam no-good kids, I could be happy." I can remember saying, as a kid, "I am never, ever going to make my kids miserable." And here I was, I was doing those awful things that I had spent an entire lifetime saying I am never going to do, I am never, never, ever going to do this.

ERIC BRIGHTENBACK, Parent: Hey, how're you doing?

PHILLIPS *[voice-over]*: Eric Brightenback, a young father in Massachusetts, was determined it would not happen to him, that he would never hurt his daughter, Anya, the wayhe had been hurt as a child. Eric still has vivid memories of how frightened he was when his own father came home after work.

Mr. BRIGHTENBACK: My father comes home and is, like, red with rage, and screaming, and starts wailing on me. Everybody's trying to figure ut a way to get my father to stop doing what he's doing, and the next day we all go about our business like everything's fine. And it's not normal. Kids shouldn't grow up in terror of their parents. They shouldn't.

PHILLIPS *[voice-over]*: Eric has never been abusive toward his daughter. But recognizing that abused children often grow up to abusive parents, he decided to get help before a problem got started in his family.

Mr. BRIGHTENBACK: And then we go right into that cycle of stuff that we talked about.

PHILLIPS *[voice-over]*: Together with his wife, Andrea, they go for counseling each week. We met with them, along with their family therapist, Dr. David Treadway.

Mr. BRIGHTENBACK: I'm trying to do it differently than the way my father did it, which was basically having temper tantrums and hitting his kids and stuff. That was a big impetus for me to get into therapy, because I didn't want to be this person that my child was terrified of.

PHILLIPS: Was there a moment when you realized that that was a possibility, that you might pass on that same thing?

Mr. BRIGHTENBACK: Definitely. Yeah.

PHILLIPS: Can you tell me about it?

Mr. BRIGHTENBACK: Yeah, there's been a lot of them. It's that feeling out of control.

Dr. DAVID TREADWAY, Family Therapist: If I'm trying to help a parent think about their child, I really, what I'm really interested in is how do they deal with the kid when they're upset? How do they treat the kid when they're having a difficult time? What happens when Dad's upset with, about the bills? What happens when Mom and Dad aren't getting along?

[Dramatization]

"WIFE": You call yourself a husband? You can't even pay the phone bill!

"HUSBAND": Maybe if you'd stay off the damn phone, then maybe the damn bill wouldn't be so high. Then maybe I wouldn't have to break my back trying to pay it.

"WIFE": I should be the one breaking your back!

"HUSBAND": You already are!

Dr. TREADWAY: What happens with the kid, when the kid walks into that scene? Does one of the parents turn and say to the kid, "Well, what about you? You haven't done your room in a week."

"SON": You're driving me crazy! Why can't I have a normal family like on TV?

"HUSBAND": Why can't I have a normal son instead of such a stupid one?

"WIFE": You leave him along.

Dr. TREADWAY: A kid who has an angry parent basically doesn't say, "Gee, my dad's got this emotional problem." He says, "My Dad wouldn't treat me like this if there weren't something wrong with me." That's the inner message that kids take away.

Mr. BRIGHTENBACK *[voice-over]*: A little kid doesn't know you're not mad at them. And let's say I come home, and I go into some kind of temper tantrum, my little kid's standing there. My little kid doesn't know that I'm mad at my boss. You know, as far as she can tell, I'm just mad, and she's scared.

Dr. TREADWAY: That is a real natural problem that all families have. Do I ever really take out my own angry feelings on my kids, that don't have anything to do with my kids whatsoever? Of course I do. But the reality is that people are ashamed of that.

PHILLIPS: Because that's so embarrassing and so shameful, how do you reach these people?

Dr. TREADWAY: By working on breaking the cycle of shame.

[voice-over] It's the process of making peace with yourself and your parents which in turn helps you make peace with yourself as a parent. Because if you can forgive your parents, you can forgive yourself.

PHILLIPS *[voice-over]*: By getting help now, Eric is investing in his family's future. It is precisely this kind of investment in the emotional well-being of a young family that can help that family later on, when it has to whether the inevitable difficulties of seeing a child through adolescence.

Dr. GARBARINO: And when they reach adolescence, there are so many temptations in our society, so many negative influences to draw a child away from the family.

[voice-over] There's drugs, there's alcohol, there's inopportune sexuality. That whole world is out there, pulling at the child. What's pulling in the other direction?

[on camera] Basically, it's the strength of that attachment to the parents, that sense of "I've always been regarded, I have self-respect, I'm respected, and therefore I'll live in a dignified kind of way as a teenager."

PHILLIPS *[voice-over]*P These teenagers have all left home because they lost that sense of attachment to their parents. They live here at a home for street kids in Boston called "The Bridge Over Troubled Waters."

LISA: Like sometimes she would say that I was unwanted, that she didn't want me, and I was a bad symbol of my father, and that she hated me, and that she just wished I wasn't there.

DOUG: I can't remember ever, ever feeling like I belonged to a family, you know. When I lived with my mother, nobody ate together, she ate in her room and I ate in my room, and that was it, you know.

PHILLIPS *[voice-over]*: Some kids may never lift themselves out of the sadness that results from emotional abuse in childhood, but ironically, a crisis during adolescence can force a family to confront the problem, and maybe even undo the damage. One of the teenagers now living at the Bridge house is a good example of that. Carla.

CARLA: I'd just, I'd come home at three o'clock in the morning, drunk, and smile at my mother, breathe on her, make sure that she knew that I was drunk, just to get some attention. I was pissed, and I, as it progressed and progressed, as I got older I dabbled into drugs, in drinking, and I just went wild.

PHILLIPS *[voice-over]*: Carla's mother, Bobbi, divorced from Carla's father, had given up as well.

BOBBI QUINNEY, Carla's Mother: I could not live this way anymore, with Carla. Carla was doing her own thing.

PHILLIPS: Carla's mother was caught up in that nightmare that so many parents fear, a kid involved in drugs and drinking, out of school, out of control, out on the street. But like so many parents of an adolescent in trouble, Bobbi didn't think of it as a family problem. It was Carla's problem. She was the one causing the family anguish. She was the one who needed fixing. And Carla believed it, too.

CARLA: I thought it was me that was the problem. I was the problem, not them.

PHILLIPS *[voice-over]*: That perspective didn't change until, at age 16, Carla was arrested for drinking. Her probation officer suggested a treatment program that insisted on the whole family coming in for counseling. For Bobbi, it was a breakthrough. Finally, she understood how she had hurt her own daughter.

Mrs. QUINNEY: It was all those years of not knowing how to talk to Carla, or to any of the kids. I had to learn how to change.

PHILLIPS *[voice-over]*: Bobbi's willingness to change is what led to this. Two years after leaving home, Carla now comes back to visit her mom. And now, for the first time in years, they are able to talk about how things went wrong between them.

Mrs. QUINNEY: So when Carla was little, she had nobody that knew how to give her what she needed. I didn't know how to parent, I really didn't understand of how to interact with your child, that you could talk to children and they could put some input into things.

CARLA: When I was young we didn't have a relationship. We didn't talk. And that's what I wanted.

Mrs. QUINNEY: I started going to counseling, and through that, I learned how to talk to Carla.

Dr. GARBARINO: It may take professional help to see your way out of some of these traps that a family is in. But it certainly can be done.

[voice-over] Those bonds can be reestablished. It really relies upon people starting to find a way to reestablish this message, "I care about you, I care for you, I care what you're doing."

CARLA: That's what I was trying to do, I think. I wanted my message to get across. I want to be loved. That's what I was trying to get, was somebody, somebody to hold me tight and say that we want you, you're special, you're something, and just hold, I think that's what holding tight means.

PHILLIPS *[voice-over]*: Carla says that slowly, she is feeling closer to her mom, and better about herself. And she asked us if she could say something to other kids and other families.

CARLA: You have to admit to yourself that my life sucks, or my life is terrible, and I don't want to live it any more, and I want to change it.

WALTERS: It is tough for both parents and kids, isn't it, Stone?

PHILLIPS: It is.

WALTERS: And you realize, from watching this, sometimes it's not just what you say, it's what you forget to say, what you don't say.

PHILLIPS: That's true. It underlines the tough job that parents have. And of course, parents aren't always to blame when relationships between parents and their kids go wrong, but it's worth remembering, I think, that whereas we as adults have the ability — we're equipped to either ignore or to rationalize or retaliate against abusive type remarks — kids take it in, and take it personally.

WALTERS: And we have to learn somehow to express our anger without making it personal.

PHILLIPS: That's right.

WALTERS: Yeah. Thank you, Stone. Hugh?

DOWNS: Yes. Without making it personal. You know, the child psychologist, Chaim Ginott, used to refer to anger without insult. He said a child can absorb a lot of anger, and it doesn't necessarily hurt him, if you don't insult him. In other words, if you say, "you did wrong," that's not harmful. But "you're stupid," that's harmful to a child. Well, when we come back, some improvements in the most dangerous job in America. Stay with us.

[Commercial break]

DOWNS: Now, a 20/20 update. Last Novemer, Tom Jarriel told why working in the meatpacking industry is the most dangerous job in America. Among factors he cited are that in recent years, the number of federal safety inspectors has been reduced, and at the same time, workers are forced to meet higher production quotas.

TIM DENHEFDER, Meatpacker: I've seen beef fall off the line and hit people. I've seen people get kicked, with their lips and jaws split open. I've seen people cut very bad.

DOWNS: He was referring to the John Morrell plant, in Sioux Falls, South Dakota. But since our reports, there have been some changes at Morrell, and Tom Jarriel is back to tell us about them. Tom?

TOM JARRIEL: There certainly have, Hugh. Three of the top executives at Morrell have resigned since our report. Also, Morrell has hired a full-time safety training director. They've also brought in an outside engineer to survey the plant completely for safety hazards. At the IBP plant we reported on, OSHA, the federal watchdog agency, for the first time in years has come in and done a thorough wall to wall check for safety hazards.

DOWNS: So there are some improvements there.

JARRIEL: Certainly are.

DOWNS: Thank you, Tom. Well, now here's Ted Koppel with a word about tonight's nightline. Ted.

TED KOPPEL: Hugh, our focus tonight is Gary Hart's private life in the Democrats' debate tonight in Des Moines. It may have been the most sensitive issue of the campaign to date. Hugh.

DOWNS: Thank you. That's Nightline, following your local news. Well, that is 20/20 for tonight. We thank you for joining us.

WALTERS: And remember, that we're in touch, so you be in touch. I'm Barbara Walters.

DOWNS: And I'm Hugh Downs.

WALTERS: And for everyone here at ABC News, good night.

PREVIOUS SHOWS — *(Send $3 for each transcript)*

1/15	#703	**Not Fit to Eat** (Army food); **Bela's Girls** (gymnastics); **Why Mom's the Only One** (single mothers)
1/22	#704	**The Voice From Beyond** (Ramtha); **Inside the Far Side** (Gary Larson); **The Montana Miracle** (Joe Montana's healed back injury)
1/29	#705	**Casey's Law** (inhumane rancher); **Speaking for the President** (Larry Speakes resigns); **Playing In Pain** (medical help for musicians)
2/5	#706	**Brothers and Sisters** (sibling rivalry); **The Carnegie Method; Women at His Mercy** (rapist uses animal tranquilizer)
2/12	#707	**Moment of Crisis: The Woman Under the Crane; And Now the Weather** (capsule history of news weatherpeople); **Now That Sex Can Kill You** (AIDS control: ads & PSAs for condoms)
2/26	#708	**Betty Ford Saving Herself; Musical Miracle** ("Les Miserables")

Mr. **Kildee**. Thank you very much.

Ms. **Fleming**. Thank you.

Mr. **Kildee**. Ms. Cleda Lawson. Pull the microphone close and speak into it please.

Ms. **Lawson**. I am very glad to be here and be able to speak out for children because it has been a long, long time. I have been a day care center director 22 years in eastern Kentucky in the Prestonsburg area.

In 1966, I did not feel as overwhelmed financially as I do in 1988. And it seems every year we are asked to do more with less. I do not think that is just me, I have been around a long time and I have talked to a lot people about children's problems and I have been very fortunate in eastern Kentucky because we have always had a Congressman—I have never been turned down with any problem I had at any time I called, and that has been a lot of times.

We are the only program in our region—in the whole region—with multihandicapped preschoolers mainstreamed into an ongoing day care center. We have 40 slots for children with only eight slots for multihandicapped and these are severely multihandicapped children. There are lots of speech problems and things, I am talking about wheelchair children. I shudder to think how many more are out there that are not getting any care whatsoever.

The professional care given these special needs children now plus being in daily contact with other children their own age, will enable them to be more productive adults. And this child care act will help that, and I think that is real important for our multihandicapped children to be exposed to the other—their peers.

I think that children need a good preschool education regardless of the race, physical abilities, appearance or family background. I think you should be able to walk into a day care center and you should not be able to just look and see who has a lot of money and who does not. I think that is a terrible thing and I have done that over the years lots of times.

If we had more financial assistance, day care centers would be able to hire qualified staff and with extra staff would be able to find more care for special needs children. If you just have a staff that is tied to that day care center all day long, then—not everybody has been in it 22 years and has already cared for all the police department's children and all the city hall's people. I have been fortunate, I have been around a long time and I know how to get services. Also, I have a real good working relationship with the local school board and we are working with these multihandicapped preschoolers along with our board of education

While I was compiling information for this, I found that I could not find any other day care center in the State of Kentucky that was working—I mean a daily working relationship with the local school board. And that is real important. If you have that relationship, you will be able to help these children until they graduate from high school. I have children in my day care now that I had their parents. I have had day care teachers that I had in day care. I know what a good day care center can do for children because I see it all the time.

Being from eastern Kentucky, we are real close-knit and we know everything that is happening. [Laughter.]

Mr. **Kildee**. From one hollow to the other.

Ms. **Lawson**. That is right. Out of the hundreds of children in 22 years, there might be a few that have been in trouble with the authorities, but I do not know of any.

The median income for the female single head of families for children under 6 in Floyd County is $5,545 a year. Even a day care center with a very low sliding fee scale is out of their reach. The average weekly fee in our area is $45 and this is considered very low compared with the national average fee. But it is still much too expensive for low-income people and most of our middle-income people. Our center uses a sliding fee scale and the lowest pays $25 a week with a maximum of $45. The Floyd County Department for Human Resources under their Title XX Purchase of Care program is serving nine children at the present time. There is seldom a day goes by that we do not receive a call from a frantic mother or father trying to find some place for their children and when they do, it is almost always too expensive.

When we can place a child, it is not uncommon for the young mothers to arrive crying just as hard as their child. They have heard so many horror stories about what can happen to children in day care, and they have feelings of rejection themselves, especially the middle-income mother. The low income mother has been able to receive some help, but the middle-income mother just is totally rejected.

Some preschoolers have been cared for by family members and several have been left with semi-invalid relatives. I received one little girl a few years ago who had been cared for by her mother's 74-year-old uncle. The parents have to take the preschooler to somebody who can at least walk, but our infants, that is another matter altogether. They can be put in a playpen or they can be put in a baby bed, as long as somebody can occasionally stick a bottle in their mouth and give them something to eat. We only have one place in Floyd County that takes infants. They have license for 40 and they take—usually the director told me she had an average daily attendance of 24, but there are only three of those with special needs and these are children 6 weeks to 3 years. Our day care center takes 2 through 5. So I take mine to the first day of school and I have a harder time than their mother trying to get them all situated. There are 1,001 Floyd County mothers in the work force with children under 6 and only 215 licensed child care slots. Elliott, Magoffin and Martin Counties have no licensed day care centers.

Last week a mother came to me and said she had lost her part time job. I had her children in the day care center. There are so many things I could tell you, but because we are such a close-knit community, the confidentiality—the people would know exactly who I was talking about. There are horror stories that I cannot even mention. But this mother gave me permission to use her story. She was receiving help from Title XX Purchase of Care for her two children and she has three, and I have her two—two of them in the day care center. But when she lost her part time job, and she was going to school full time, she lost that help because you have to be a working parent to receive. And although the people at our department for human resources are very caring people, these rules forbid them to help this lady. And so now I am having to tell some mothers no, we do not have a place for you. I have two children now, and the mother coming up for finals in 2 weeks, and she—I have to take care of her children until she can get through, but she cannot pay.

We have remained an effective day care center without closing with a lot of wonderful, caring people, and I could document this, that have had to close and they say I am quitting quote "the day care business." I have three staff members working for minimum wages and one has been with me 8 years, with very little fringe benefits. And I have a board of directors who voted a raise for me in 1979, but I have not been able to take it yet due to a budget that has just barely enough money to meet the monthly bills. Now I am not complaining about that, I have a husband who has provided for me very well, but I know that is not the norm. There are a lot of people who love children, but they have to have enough money to at least buy groceries and pay the bills. To eliminate this problem of the low fees and paying the people more, we would have to raise fees. It would cause more hardship on our parents and some of the children would then be forced to drop day care. I know where they would have to go then, house to house, whoever would watch them, even neighbors, giving them something to eat after school is out. I just cannot—I just cannot have that.

For a business that serves the most important person in the world, this is a tragedy. They should have the best our country has to offer and instead they are being cared for by anyone the parents can find for the lowest price. And we become acquainted with their problems when we read about them in the morning paper. I know that this cannot take care of all the country's children and all of our ills, but if this is passed and we get this Act for Better Child Care, it will be at least a start. Thank you.

[Applause.]

Mr. KILDEE. Very often, I discourage applause, but I will tell you I am applauding in my own heart the testimony. It is very good and I commend the audience for applauding and being sensitive.

There are so many forms of subsidy for child care, the parent, sometimes the State, hopefully the Federal government will get involved in it, but very often the provider with a labor of love is providing a great deal of subsidy too. It is nice to have it but we cannot count on that. Thank God we have people like yourself who have that sensitivity.

Ms. LAWSON. You know, just being there so long, I know that—Chris' father helped me so much and everybody that operates day care centers are not aware of this and you are so bogged down with the day-to-day activities that you just cannot get out and find, like legal help, with Appalachian Research and Defense Fund, that is free legal assistance. But we need people who can get out there and beat the bushes and find help for our children.

Mr. KILDEE. You know I mentioned the other day—I will go to the next witness—but I am a key sponsor of this move and I told some people the other day in Washington who testified against the bill that I would invite them to come walk with me through the real world. I do not know where they have been walking, but they have not been walking on the east side of Flint, MI or walking in Floyd County. And I think very often we have to invite people to walk with us through the real world. I have to do it by the very nature of my position. Like Ron here, I have never lived more than a mile and a half from the house I was born in and I can see in my neighborhood a real need for child care. It is there just walking from my house to church on Sunday, and to the local restaurant where the working people and the poor go and the poor work in. There you can see the real world. Some more people have to see it.

Thank you very much, we will move on to the next witness here. The next witness is Linda Locke, advocacy director for the Community Coordinated Child Care.

[The prepared statement of Cleda Lawson follows:]

TESTIMONY FOR THE ACT FOR BETTER CHILD SERVICES
FROM THE SEVENTH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Prepared for

The Subcommittee on Human Resources

by

Cleda Lawson

Floyd County Developmental Child Care

47 South Highland Avenue

Prestonsburg, KY 41653

April 23, 1988

TESTIMONY FOR THE ACT FOR BETTER CHILD CARE SERVICES

Personal Information

My name is Cleda Lawson, and I am Director of Floyd County Developmental Child Care in Prestonsburg, Floyd County, Kentucky, serving children ages 2 to 5, Monday through Friday. Floyd County is located in the 7th Congressional District in Eastern Kentucky. My first Day Care Center was a renovated store building in 1966, and with help from State Government my financial problems were not as great as they are now. The Center is currently a private nonprofit Corp. with USDA Foods (Lunch Room Program) and parent fees as our only source of income. I have been in Child Care Centers for 22 years and most of those years have been very discouraging, but by the grace of God and good friends in local and state government I have always had a very good Program.

Multihandicap Child Care

We are the only Program in our region with multihandicapped preschoolers mainstreamed into an ongoing Day Care Center. We have 40 slots with only 8 slots for the multihandicapped (which are filled), and I shudder to think how many more are out there without any professional caregivers. The professional care given these special needs children now, plus being in daily contact with other children their own age, will enable them to be more productive adults. With the Act for Better Child Care (H.R. 3660), the care we could give these children would be a much less financial burden. Children need a good preschool education, regardless of race, physical abilities, appearance, or family background. This will give them a better chance in life. With financial assistance from H.R. 3660, more Day Care Centers will be able to hire qualified staff and be able to serve special needs children that are now being neglected.

The Floyd County Board of Education has always been responsive to my needs as a Day Care provider. I have been able to use our local schools and receive administrative assistance when needed. While compiling the information for this hearing, I was not able to find any other Day Care Center in the State of Kentucky that has an ongoing working relationship with their local school board. With H.R. 3660 the extra financial assistance will enable Day Care Centers to hire additional staff people to work with other agencies, as well as learn of other services available to them.

Day Care Fees

The median income for the female single head of families for children under six in Floyd County is $5,545. Even a Day Care Center with a very low sliding fee scale is out of their reach. The average weekly fee is $45 in our Area, and this is considered very low when compared with the national average, but is still much too expensive for a low income family. Our Center uses a sliding Fee Scale based on the total family income with the lowest income paying $25 a week to a maximum of $45 a week. The Floyd County Department for Human Resources and their Title XX (Purchase of Care Program) is serving 9 children at the present time. There is seldom a day goes by that we don't receive a call from a frantic mother or father trying to find someplace for their children, and when they do it is almost always too expensive.

Shortage Of Day Care Services

When we can place a child, it isn't uncommon for the young mothers to arrive crying just as hard as their child. They've heard so many horror stories about what can happen to children in Day Care, and they have feelings of rejection themselves, especially the women from middle income families who have never received help from anyone. Some preschoolers have been cared for by family members, and several have been left with semi-invalid relatives. I received one little girl who had been cared for by her mother's 74 year old uncle. The situation for infants is even more severe. Parents have to take preschoolers to someone who can at least walk, but some feel an infant can be left with anyone. In some instances they are made to stay in a playpen or bed all day, and we have only one Center in Floyd County equipped to care for infants. They are licensed for 40 infants (ages 6 weeks to 3 years) with an average daily attandence of 24, and they have three special needs children attending at this time. There are 1001 Floyd County mothers in the work force with children under six and only 215 licensed Child Care slots. Elliott, Magoffin and Martin Counties have NO licensed Day Care Centers.

Typical Single Parent Family Problem

Last week a mother came to me and said she had lost her part time job. She had been working and going to school while receiving help from Title XX (Purchase of Care) with her day care fee. She has three children, with two of them in our Center and no way to pay her day care fees, since she lost this assistance when she lost her job. This means I have two more children in my care whose parent is unable to pay, and a mother preparing for final exams with other things on her mind.

Day Cares Dilemma

How have we remained effective when other Centers are closing, with wonderful careing people are getting discouraged and quitting the "Day Care Business"? I have three staff members working for minimum wages (one has been with me for eight years) with very little fringe benefits, and I have not been able to take a raise my Board of Directors gave me in 1979, due to a budget that just barely has enough money to meet our monthly expenses. To eliminate this problem, our fees would have to be raised causing more hardship on our parents. Some of our children would then be forced to drop Day Care.

For a business that serves the most important persons (our children) in the world this is a tragedy. They should have the best our country has to offer, instead they are being cared for by anyone their parents can find for the lowest price, and we become acquainted with their problems when we read about them in our morning paper. I know that all the ills of our children can't be solved at once, but the passing of the Act for Better Child Care (H.R. 3660) is at the very least, a start.

Ms. Locke. I would like to take this opportunity certainly to thank you all for coming to Kentucky. We need your support, we need the support of this Bill and we need the support of those who realize that child care presents tremendous problems, not just in Kentucky but in our nation as a whole.

I currently serve as Advocacy Director for Community Coordinated Child Care, 4-C, here in Louisville. I also serve as the State coordinate of the Kentucky Alliance for Better Child Care, that supports this bill.

I come to you with lots of figures. Those figures, when attached to the human element, as you have heard here and as to the next panel, come alive. Sometimes we get overwhelmed with figures, particularly in Kentucky where it seems like so many times we are lax in so many areas.

I would like to address two particular issues today, that the ABC bill will address in Kentucky. One is funding to assist low income families, those who are working, in school or training, those families that are not under protective services or substantiated abuse. We would also like to provide you with information on the lack of child care facilities in Kentucky and our critical need that we have in parts of the bill to help us build develop those facilities in our State.

Kentucky right now has a voucher system for our Title XX Purchase of Day Care Program. This is one of the components of the bill in terms of vouchering for parents, so it will fit in quite well with what Kentucky is already doing, in that parents have choices of child care and will make that choice and then funding will go to those facilities to help parents pay the cost of care.

Right now in Kentucky, if funds are available, we have out Title XX assistance for working families at 60 percent of State median income. This bill would fund families on a sliding fee basis up to 115 percent of State median. To make that come alive, State median income right now for a family of two is about $5.02 an hour. So when families make above that, if they are on our voucher program right now, they are no longer eligible to receive assistance. They have to come up with the full fee for child care for their children.

I would like to provide just briefly—you have my written testimony—from July of 1987 to December of 1987 our cabinet documented requests for services for child care assistance for working families or families who wanted to go to work, 2,916 families with 4,538 children.

We have five area development districts in Kentucky that have had no funds this fiscal year to assist any new low income working families with child care. Those represent—cover 31 counties and 25 percent of our State.

In October of 1986 our cabinet for human resources in this program was serving 3,338 children of working families. One year later, because of scarcity of funds and increase in protective service needs, we were serving 1,683, a significant drop. It is coming back up, but it goes up and down continually.

In October of 1986, we did a statewide study of child care and we found that 62 of 120 counties in Kentucky were not serving any low-income working families with child care because funds were not available.

In this particular legislative session that just ended, our Governor and State legislature provided us with $1 million of additional funding over a 2-year period of time, but we all know that it is nowhere going to meet the needs that we have within our State.

I would like to address very briefly the lack of facilities in Kentucky. According to 1980 census figures, we had approximately 135,000 children under 6 whose mothers worked. We had 41,650 licensed slots, so that nearly every day in Kentucky, we have nearly 100,000 children under the age of 6 who are not in any type of child care arrangements that are assured of meeting some type of minimum safety and health standards.

In January 1987, as Congressman Mazzoli mentioned, we had 15 counties that had no licensed child care. In March of 1988, that had grown to 17. Magoffin County was one of those counties that had to close because they could not continue to find the funds to pay for families who needed child care.

Kentucky ranks among all States in the number of regulated family day care homes. We had 197 homes in January of last year. Just by contract, West Virginia had 1,300 State approved homes, Virginia had 1,460. I would like to mention that Michigan had 9,779 family day care homes which care for 6 or less children, Kentucky has 12.

Mr. Chairman, we appreciate the fact that you have come today. We appreciate the fact that you have been here to listen to our testimony. I would like to provide two more pictures into Kentucky as to what is happening to children who are in care that is not meeting State standards. And I have attached to my testimony two news articles to support this.

In northern Kentucky, a woman was arrested at a fast food restaurant because she allegedly hit with her fist three children for whom she was babysitting. She was charged with three counts of assault in the fourth degree and public intoxication.

In Hopkinsville, an employee of a local day care facility was charged with alcohol intoxication and endangering the welfare of a minor. The employee was allegedly staggering and holding a baby when officers approached her.

Families with young children, not just in Kentucky but nationally, simply do not earn wages that allow them the means to pay the cost of quality day care for their children. We can no longer ignore the reality that most mothers are in the work force and our current patchwork system of child care cannot meet the needs of families. Without your help, these families will continue to struggle and children will continue to suffer from inadequate care.

We urge you to move swiftly and quickly on this bill to ensure that our children receive safe care and to help our families in becoming productive members of our work force.

Thank you again for coming. I will be glad to answer any questions.

Mr. KILDEE. Thank you very much.

[Applause.]

Mr. KILDEE. Ms. Mavis Higgs.

Ms. HIGGS. First of all I would like to thank you for bringing the subcommittee to hear our testimony and for providing me the opportunity to testify on behalf of the ABC bill.

As the director of a large church-sponsored child care center that is located in southeastern Jefferson County, I would like to express my concerns for the parents, children and also for providers of child care. I support in particular the provision of the ABC bill for providing 75 percent of its proposed funding to be allocated to low and moderate income families in their help to finding quality child care arrangements.

Statistics have already been shared that more and more women are returning to the work force. Many women are going to work for the first time after having children. Many of these women are single parents who have limited education, limited skills and limited experience, which forces them to take low income, near minimum wage positions.

Quality care is expensive to provide. Using my center as an example, and for Jefferson County our rates are average to low, the parent of one child putting a child in child care would be paying $2,800 a year for child care. Around Jefferson County, the fee could be as high as $5,000 a year for one child. Based on these figures, it is easy to see how some parents are paying anywhere to one-fourth to one-half of their total income for child care.

Many times, and in fact quite recently, I have spoken with parents who are investigating the possibility of child care so that they may return to work and will be very discouraged by the reality that they cannot afford to go back to work because of the cost of child care.

A single mother who currently has a child enrolled in our center has an income that falls just above the current guidelines for subsidized child care. The cost of her care provides a real hardship for her. She has found it necessary to work weekends just to be able to make ends meet, and it robs her of time with her daughter.

Another family in which both parents work and have two children enrolled at the center are struggling with being able to meet their weekly tuition payments. They too fall short of the current standards.

Financial assistance must be provided, the need is critical. The funding proposed by the ABC bill would provide enough funds to make parents able to fulfill their right to earn a living.

Recently considerable attention has been focused on the ABC bill with regard to the church/state issue raised by wording of sections 19 and 20. I have been asked but I continue to support the bill given the limitations it might place on church-sponsored operations. I feel the church's role in providing child care in Kentucky and throughout the nation is a vital one. Apart from that, I support the bill's purpose to expand the supply of safe, affordable, high-quality child care. I also advocate legislation that would lead to the development of realistic minimum national standards that would raise the quality of care in States that currently have little or no regulation at all.

I am comfortable with proposed revisions to section 19, as I understand them to be, which will alter the bill's language, maintaining the separation of church and state without restricting churches from providing essential child care services. There is great need for child care in Kentucky, as in other States. The religious community, at the rate of one out of every three facilities nationwide, is playing a vital part in meeting that need. My center has found it necessary in our brief 4-year history to increase our capacity four times because of the need in our community. There is no question there is a need for child care in Kentucky.

I support the language of section 20 of the ABC bill which prohibits discrimination in enrollments and employment. Our center has a current enrollment of less than 2 percent from church membership. Our priority in hiring staff is in providing qualified, trained personnel. Experience and education are the only criteria for preferential hiring.

I support provisions in the bill that allow parents to select child care arrangements freely from all possible options, including day care homes, for-profit and church sponsored child care.

Finally I would like to add that I agree with the National Council of Churches, who helped develop the ABC bill and support its passage, in its belief, and I quote: "* * * that the church is obliged to advocate a coherent comprehensive, inclusive and equitable public policy regarding child care * * *. The well being of our nation's children require that we do no less."

Thank you.

Mr. KILDEE. Thank you very much for your testimony.

[The prepared statement of Mavis Higgs follows:]

Testimony by
Mavis Higgs

Before Committee

Presented before the
Subcommittee on Human Resources
Chairman, Congressman Dale E. Kildee
April 23, 1988
Executive Inn-East, Louisville, Ky.

First of all, I would like to thank the Subcommittee on Human Resources for scheduling this hearing in Louisville and for providing me the opportunity to testify on behalf of H.R. 3660, the Act for Better Child Care Services.

I am Mavis HIggs, Director of Saint Alban's Child Care Center, a large church-operated facility located in Southeastern Jefferson County. As a child care provider I would like to express my concern for the needs of children and parents in relation to child care. I would also like to add my voice to the many supporters of the ABC Bill. I support in particular the provision for 75% of its proposed $2.5 billion (dollars) in funds being allocated to aid low and moderate income families in obtaining good, safe, quality care for their children. We are all familiar with statistics which confirm that more and more mothers of young children enter or re-enter the work force each year. Many of these women are single parents with limited education, skill, and experience. Most of the jobs they are forced to take pay near minimum wage. Quality care is expensive to provide. Using my Center as an example (and our charges are average to low for Jefferson County) child care fees for one child per year is $2800. Families with two children in the Center (and we have several) may pay in excess of $5000 per year. In other areas of the County parents pay as much as $5000 per year for just one child. Based on these figures it is easy to see how many families, especially single parents, are spending anywhere from 1/4 to 1/2 of their gross income on child care.

Many times (and, in fact, quite recently) I have spoken with parents who are investigating child care possibilities so that they may begin or return to work. When they discover the cost of good child care arrangements, they frequently decide that, in fact, they cannot afford to work. By subsidizing child care for families with up to 115% of Kentucky median income the financial burden of many homes would be lightened enough to make employment worthwhile.

A single mother who currently has her child enrolled at our Child Care Center has an income that falls just above the current guidelines to qualify for subsidized child care. The cost of child care provides a real hardship for her. She has found it necessary to work weekends just to make ends meet, thus robbing her of precious time spent with her child.

Another family in which both parents work and have two children enrolled at the Center are struggling with being able to maintain their weekly tuition payments. They, too, fall short of meeting federal guidelines for subsidized care.

Financial assistance must be provided to assure children are being properly cared for. Money isn't available on the state level and most Centers, including mine, find that the cost of daily operation restricts being able to establish scholarships and/or sliding scale fees. The funding proposed by the ABC Bill is critical in making child care affordable enough for parents to fulfill their right to earn a living.

Recently considerable attention has been focused on the ABC Bill with regards to the church-state issues raised by the wording of Sections 19 and 20. I have been asked why I continue to support the bill given the limits it might place on church sponsored operations. I feel the church's role in providing child care in Kentucky and throughout the nation is an important one. Apart from that, I support the bill's purpose to expand the supply of safe, affordable, high-quality child care. I also advocate legislation that would lead to the developmentof realistic minimum national standards that would raise the quality of care in states that currently have little or no regulation of child care. With this accomplished, hopefully we would see fewer incidents such as the near tragedy involving little Jessica McClure while she was staying in a family run Day Care Home in Texas.

I am comfortable with proposed revisions to Section 19 as I understand them to be, which will alter the Bill's language, maintaining the separation of Church and State without restricting churches from providing essential child care services. There is great need for child care in Kentucky, as in other states. The religious community at the rate of 1 of every 3 facilities nationwide is playing a vital part in meeting that need. My Center has found it necessary to increase our licensing capacity and expand our services four times in three years to accommodate the growing need for quality care. Two years ahead of schedule we have broken ground for an additional building that will "house" approximately 117 additional children. There is no question of need in our community.

I support the language of Section 20 of the ABC Bill which prohibits discrimination in enrollments and employment. Our Center has a current enrollment of less than 2% from church membership. Our priority in hiring staff is in providing qualified, trained personnel. Experience and education are the only criteria for preferrential hiring.

I support provisions in the Bill that would allow parents to select their child care arrangements freely from all possible options including day care homes, for-profit and church sponsored centers.

Finally, I would like to add that I agree with the National Council of Churches who helped to develop the ABC Bill and support its passage, in its belief (and I quote):

> *"that the Church is obliged to advocate a coherent, comprehensive, inclusive and equitable public policy regarding child care...The well being of our nation's children require that we do nc less."*

Thank you.

Mr. **Kildee.** This whole panel has been extremely helpful. I will start with a couple of questions and then defer to Mr. Mazzoli and Mr. Perkins. You mentioned that the situation now is worse than it was in 1966. That is a jarring bit of information right there. If the Federal Government does not make a commitment to child care, what do you foresee the future child care situation to be say 5 years from now or 10 years from now? Any of you can answer; we will start with you. If is has deteriorated since 1966, and that has been my own feeling too, if the federal government does not do something, what do you foresee the future to be?

Ms. **Lawson.** Well I think that we will have more people in prisons. I also think that if the Federal Government—I do not want to get too—I think that it would be a lot smarter to spend money on these children, preschoolers, than it would be to take care of them in prison as adults.

[Applause.]

Mr. **Kildee.** Your thought is verified by the Perry School project conducted in Ypsilanti, Michigan, involving the Head Start Program. We do try to model this on Head Start. The Perry School Study tracked students over a 20-year period and proves conclusively that just the fiscal savings to government is great when you give these kids this head start, some developmental help. The fiscal savings alone is great, apart from the morality of trying to recognize children as a high priority in society. We save money on remedial education later on, and welfare costs later on. Fewer of them go on welfare, fewer need remedial education and few actually wind up in prison. The Perry School Study, a very, very respected study makes just that point.

Does anyone else care to comment on that question? Mr. Blevins.

Mr. **Blevins.** As chairman of the Subcommittee on the Budget dealing with Corrections and Justice, I can ditto her remarks in that we are seeing a tremendous increase in the prison population in Kentucky. We need to put that money on the front end because those dollars that are invested will pay dividends where the money that we are putting on building prisons is not really an investment in the future of Kentucky, it is a burden on the future of Kentucky. I think if we are going to do something to help the children of this State, and we have many of them in poverty with no hope unless the Federal Government helps us, because Kentucky just does not have the resources unless we have some help from the Federal Government. In past years we have had that, under past administrations, but under the past 8 years I think we have lost that help from the Federal Government because of the budget problems perhaps, because of the defense build-up perhaps. But I think the biggest thing we can do for our people is to make sure the children are treated fairly, make sure that each child in America and each child in Kentucky has a fair opportunity and a fair chance.

Without that day care, we are seeing those children abused, we are seeing them malnourished and we are seeing them have less of an opportunity when they get into the grades and try to compete with students that have had day care.

Mr. **Kildee.** You know, when I first went to the legislature in Michigan 24 years ago, I was put on the committee for the State prisons, and I used to visit the prisons regularly. I was the first member who used to regularly visit the prisons and I realized that most of the people in Jackson Prison, the largest walled prison in the world, in Jackson, MI, were there because they did not really like themselves, they did not have a good feeling about themselves. If you do not like yourself, do not respect yourself, you are not very likely to respect someone else's property or their life. But if somehow we could try to help a person develop a good feeling about self, that is going to be not only good for that individual but good for all society. Every human being, in my mind, has dignity.

I think government's prime role is to promote, protect, defend and enhance human dignity.

[Applause.]

Mr. **Kildee**. Mr. Mazzoli.

Mr. **Mazzoli**. Mr. Chairman, that was beautifully said and I do not think it could be improved upon at all. I think that this points out the reason why we worked so hard to have the committee come into town to hear us and look at Kentucky as a State, because we knew that the chairman of this committee, Congressman Kildee, is a person of great sensitivity and compassion who can translate what he hears today with us and with the friends that Chris has brought in from the Seventh District, and translate that into action at the Federal level.

So I again, as I said earlier today, thank Chairman Kildee for taking this time. I think we are very privileged and honored to have him in the chair of a bill like this.

Just a couple of quick things. I want to commend Linda on probably being the major force in pulling together this meeting today. I think the great numbers of people who have been here all day long testify to your talent as an organizer and your commitment to this cause. I want to thank you for that very much. By extension thank 4-C's, you have been the coordinating element of the Alliance.

As you heard the chairman say, the chance of passing this bill is going to depend very entirely on the kind of grassroots support he can get from around the country. I think we have proven to Chairman Kildee that we have the grassroots support in the Commonwealth of Kentucky.

[Applause.]

Mr. **Mazzoli**. I am sure he is going to have this kind of reaction in other States as well. This is very important and I want to thank you, Linda.

Ms. Higgs, I had the privilege of addressing you and your congregation at St. Albans a couple of weeks ago, which I would appreciate you conveying my thanks again to the congregation for the great welcome. I was interested in your testimony because if there has been a strain of concern here, it has been expressed about church-related day care centers, as to whether or not section 19 and section 20 might be somehow a dissuasion or a disability or a barrier of some kind. Maybe again just to kind of amplify the record on that point, though it is I am sure one that the chairman has devoted a lot of time to, he and Senator Dodd, the major sponsor in the Senate, have had several hearings on this very point. But let me ask you once again more or less for the record to tell me, as the day care director at St. Albans, which represents the church-related groups, that you have no problem with allowing the committee to make changes, make amendments and so forth to those two sections so that ultimately you have confidence that there will be a bill that will actually aid church-related day care centers.

Ms. HIGGS. You have my complete support. I have been a director now for about 9 years, both centers I have directed have been affiliated with churches and operated by the churches, and most church operated centers are done so as a part of the ministry of that church. And I think the ministry is to the children, and I think we need to look at—our ministry is not just to the children in our specific center but throughout our Nation, that all children need to be guaranteed quality care, and I see the ABC bill as providing that.

Mr. MAZZOLI. Well I think it is really—I like to hear that because it is true that we sometimes take a fairly narrow parochial view, and I think you have taken a very broad view by saying that. This bill influences and affects quite a few people around the country and millions of children potentially and that should be our goal as well as trying to fight the church-related. But since church-related organizations do provide I think about a third of the day care in the Commonwealth and probably across the country, obviously we should be looking at that very carefully.

State Representative Blevins, I was very compelled by your testimony. I can see why you, despite your youth and probably few years in the Assembly, have become chairman of that committee, you have obviously studied the subject. You made a point which the audience reacted to favorably about the connection between the burden on the Commonwealth's future in the form of prisons and the benefits to the Commonwealth's future in the form of children. You make the connection, as the chairman does, that if the child gets a start that there is a better chance that child avoids prisons and a broken life.

Mr. BLEVINS. I think the chairman stated, and I do not think I can reiterate it as well as he did, but I will try—I think when you see a person unemployed that person has lost that good feeling about themselves, they have lost that self-esteem and that is passed on to the children. And unless that parent has an opportunity to work and to further their endeavors so that they can get an education or they can afford a better house or afford better food on the table, then that child is locked into that same low self-esteem. That is what day care centers try to do, at least the ones that I have been familiar with and have been trying to help, and that is to get those children into a positive setting, and to allow that parent to in turn go out and increase their educational achievements or to find a better job and to provide better for their family. I think that is the key, that self-esteem, and that is what the day care centers can do.

Unless we get people off the welfare rolls, they lose that self-esteem and they pass it on generation after generation.

Mr. MAZZOLI. I think the Representative is making a point that probably has not been brought out as dramatically as it ought to be and that is the connection between being on welfare and not having day care. I mean if you get off welfare, you have to have someplace for your children to be while you are working and if you have no place to put your children while you are working you probably are not going to be able to work, and if you cannot work you are not going to be off welfare, so we are back at the same starting point.

So there is a very close connection here. If we are going to talk about welfare reform, and that of course is the theme at St. Albans. In fact, Representative Burch of the state house talked about welfare reform and we connected, dove-tailed these two subjects, welfare reform at the State and Federal level, and the availability of child care.

Just a couple of quick things. I would like to certainly commend the gentle lady from Chris' district for her very compelling testimony.

And Fran, if you could help me a little bit. You were saying something like 75 percent—I think you used that figure in your testimony—of working women, is that in our county?

Ms. FLEMING. That is in our county, which is above the national average.

Mr. MAZZOLI. The national average is maybe about 60 percent or so, but here we are 75, which means in Jefferson County we have a greater need.

Mr. Chairman, if I might just for the record indicate that to show you how important the subject is to us, in addition to the elected officials who testified, I have the pleasure of introducing to you Congressman—excuse me, Alderman Tom Denning and his wife Carolyn I believe is still with us, or was. Coroner Dick Greathouse, Alderman Jerry Clyer and we have with us Debbie Pierce who is representing Senator Mitchell Kyle's office. I think it shows generally to the crowd that this is a very broad-based concern.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Perkins.

Mr. PERKINS. Mr. Chairman, initially I would like to enter into the record a letter that I received in support of this legislation from the largest corporation in my district, Ashland Oil Corp., and I would like that letter to be so entered and marked as an exhibit.

Mr. KILDEE. That will be made a part of the record of this hearing.

[The letter referred to follows:]

Ashland

ASHLAND OIL, INC. • POST OFFICE BOX 391 • ASHLAND, KENTUCKY • 41114 • PHONE (606) 329-3333

H. M. ZACHEM
Administrative Vice President
Public Affairs
(606) 329-[illegible]

April 21, 1988

The Honorable Carl C. Perkins
U. S. House of Representatives
Washington, D. C. 20515

Dear Chris:

I am writing in support of H.R. 3660 and companion bill S. 1885, the Act for Better Child Care Services. This bill would increase Title XX funds available to low-income working parents for child care services.

In the Ashland area, current government funding meets only two-thirds of the cost of child care services at institutions such as the Ashland Child Development Center. Clearly, in other areas where costs are higher, government funding provides an even lower percentage, severely straining the ability of day care centers to provide quality care and making day care unaffordable for low-income parents.

This legislation is vital to assuring high-quality care for many children who otherwise might not have the benefit of proper supervision. In addition, this bill makes it possible for low-income parents to move into the work force.

I urge you to support this legislation. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Mac Zachem

Mr. PERKINS. Well I want to commend this panel, I was very moved. I was very interested in Walter's testimony that there was 12,292—is this thing on?

As I said I was very moved by this panel's testimony. There were a variety of things that were important that were said and how it was said was important as well.

The 1980 census of the area development district indicating there was 12,292 women in the work force with children under 6, the number of licensed child care slots available being 2,968. I think that figure has grown since that census.

I was very interested in hearing that 62 out of the 120 counties in Kentucky do not have child care for low-income people. I was very interested in hearing about the counties in eastern Kentucky that have no child care facilities at all, some of those mentioned surrounding and bordering my home county. I was very moved, Cleda, by your testimony, I thought you did a wonderful job. And I know you have a great interest in caring for people.

In relationship to a fact that I think we have already pretty well established here, the fact that there is a real lack of adequate facilities, inadequate slots available for the pressing need that we have; I would like to go just a step beyond and just assume for a second that in fact we did have adequate infrastructure across eastern Kentucky, Kentucky and America, that had child care related services, and dwell just for a second on the type services that are needed and that are available, or that should be available.

I would like to hear from the panel their feelings, in the rural areas for example, the need for transportation to child care centers, nutritional questions that should be looked at as well as the medical component and perhaps the educational development of children at an early age. Wide swath there. Why don't you give that a little time.

Ms. LAWSON. I will go first. I think and I should say I know, after watching children for this many years and being in contact with them for that many years after I cared for them at 2, 3, 4 and 5, if we make sure our children at that age have good nutrition, have love, they will not be able to be stopped. If they are around caring, loving people and given the proper medication and food, they—it would be really hard to knock them down after they get in the third, fourth, fifth grades.

Mr. PERKINS. Well Cleda, I agree with that 100 percent. I am interested, do you think—you have been around the community, you go out and you know what is going on—do you get a feeling that all the children out there in Floyd County are getting that kind of care, that kind of nutritional foundation, that kind of medical overlook?

Ms. LAWSON. I know they are not. Just go to any grade school, you can spot them in a classroom. I know everybody could not, but I have been trained to spot problems, just by osmosis I have been able to, and I can—now I can watch my little ones in the day care center and I can almost tell you what they are going to be when they get in high school.

Mr. PERKINS. Well in that regard, do you think it should be an integral part of what we try to establish, and it would be fine to establish anything, but what we do try to establish in this country, we look at the total picture from the day care level on in what we are trying to do for the child?

Ms. **Lawson**. I think if the total family is involved, like a real good day care center will do, that it would help.

Mr. **Perkins**. That is a very good point, interaction with the family. What type of interaction with the family do you think these day care type centers should have? What is the ideal and what should be worked toward in trying to formulate from our point, or view of a State's point, or city's point of view, the policy that is necessary in trying to get some sort of interaction with the family?

Ms. **Lawson**. I think that it should start on the first day, and I know it is necessary for big centers and a lot of centers the parent just comes in and sign the paper and they drop their child off and that child goes into another room. I think that it is real important that that mother or father or whomever brings that child into the day care center, that that teacher knows those people and that child is able to see my mommy or my daddy and my teacher are friends and they both care for me. Lots of times that helps. I will even remind them, even if their mommy and daddy are not what they should be, that child does not need to know that and that might be the only—that is theirs and it is part of them, so if teachers right from the start let that child know that the parents and the teachers are working together for them, then most of the problem is solved right there, that they can feel comfortable with that staff in the day care center and that staff cares jointly with the parents. That will eliminate a lot of the problems, especially discipline problems, in the day care center.

Mr. **Perkins**. What about transportation problems?

Ms. **Lawson**. For the multi-handicapped children, we—there is a van available. But the rest of them, the parents have to bring, and that is a horror story in itself. They are just trying to catch rides and it is just a big problem. But with transportation, if you provide that, insurance is so expensive that it just makes day care even more expensive. So we do not even try that any more. The parents drop them off and come and pick them up. I have stayed real late in the afternoon even after 6 o'clock, had to come back from home with children, and call child welfare and—because my children will not go with just anybody and I have taught them not to, and they will with me. So I would take them home lots of times if they do not have any way of getting there.

Mr. **Perkins**. Well that kind of effort is wonderful. I wish we had it in terms of being able to provide that consistently.

Does anybody else have anything to say about anything we were talking about here?

Mr. **Blevins**. I think for east Kentucky, Chris, I know we have problems with transportation and I think we need to use our school systems and our bus systems and perhaps integrate that. That would be one way we could give more adequate transportation to those young people. I do not know if it could be done or not, but I think that is one area that maybe we could use some of the funding for, is the subsidizing of transportation needs because if we cannot get them to a center then the center is of no value to them.

Mr. **Perkins**. Mr. Chairman, I have no further questions.

Mr. Kildee. Just one further question of State Representative Blevins, a fiscal question really. Will the fact that the ABC bill allows States to count existing State expenditures for child care against the State match make it easier for States like Kentucky to meet the ABC State-match requirement?

Mr. Blevins. I think that is imperative for the State of Kentucky if we are going to match any of those dollars or capture any of those dollars. I think right now we put around $4 million into day care and if we can use those funds, that will capture around $20 million of Federal funds. I think the State has problems in its budget and I think those will be addressed in the next session and perhaps earlier in a special session. We do have a lottery on the ballot and there may be some funds available from the lottery to use to match the Federal dollars. I will say that under the current budget that we just passed recently, we tried to match all the Federal programs to capture those Federal dollars. That is part of our game plan and part of the Governor's game plan was to capture all those Federal dollars because any time you can get that kind of favorable match, it is advantageous to the State.

Mr. Kildee. Thank you very much, State representative. I really appreciate this panel. You have been very, very helpful this morning. Very often we in Washington need not only have our intellect enlightened but our wills strengthened. I think you have both enlightened our intellect and strengthened our will. Thank you very much for it.

The Chair would like to express its appreciation to the people in the back of the hall who are expressing their opinion on the Holloway bill. Congressman Holloway and I are good friends, we have talked about this bill on a number of occasions on the House floor and he did testify very eloquently for his bill just this past Thursday in Washington. So we appreciate your presence here this morning on this. God bless you.

[Applause.]

Our next panel now will consist of Mr. Edward Schottland, senior vice president, NKC Hospitals, Louisville, KY; Ms. Lizzie Wallace, Bracken County, KY; Ms. Nelle Horlander, Louisville, KY; Mr. and Mrs. John Brodley, Louisville, KY and Ms. Maria Billingslea, Louisville, KY.

Again, you may summarize your testimony in any fashion you wish and your entire written testimony will be made a part of the record.

Mr. Schottland.

STATEMENTS OF EDWARD SCHOTTLAND, SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT, NKC HOSPITALS, LOUISVILLE, KY; LIZZIE WALLACE, BRACKEN COUNTY, KY; NELLE HORLANDER, LOUISVILLE, KY; MARGARET BRODLEY, LOUISVILLE, KY, AND MARIA BILLINGSLEA, LOUISVILLE, KY

Mr. Schottland. Good morning, my name is Edward M. Schottland and I am senior vice president of NKC Hospitals, a not-for-profit corporation which owns and operates two hospitals in Louisville, KY and employs over 2,200 full and part-time employees, 80 percent of which are women. The hospitals have offered a child care program to their employees since 1980, utilizing the service as one of the many benefits we offer to our employees.

Our program is operated 18 hours a day from 6 a.m. to midnight Monday through Saturday with a licensed capacity of 100. We currently take care of 82 children a day and have a total of 137 children enrolled in our program. At the present time, we have over 200 children on our waiting list, of which 144 are children of employees of both our hospital as well as the Jewish Hospital and the remainder from the community. The average wait for an NKC or Jewish Hospital employee to get a child in day care is from 6 to 12 months for a second shift employee and from 9 to 15 months for a day shift employee.

While it is impossible for us to determine how many families are unable to afford our services, it is clear based on our experience and observation that many families both in the community as well as some of our own employees cannot afford to pay even our subsidized rates for care. As a health care institution, competing for the recruitment and retention of nurses, our day care program offers an important benefit to our employees which has helped us——

Mr. PERKINS. Mr. Chairman, could I request a little order please?

Mr. KILDEE. Yes, if the witness will suspend.

[Pause.]

Mr. KILDEE. You may continue.

Mr. SCHOTTLAND. We are currently subsidizing our own employees who participate in day care by as much as $1,000 a year and still many of our employees are not able to afford this service. On the other hand, the health care industry is under close scrutiny with regard to their costs and consequently we must balance our ability to help employees stay in the workplace by providing and subsidizing day care with cost constraints.

Certainly our situation is no different than that of other businesses that are being asked to pick up the cost of care by their employees who cannot afford to do so in either a competitive or a regulated environment. The Act for Better Child Care Service would provide a substantial opportunity for many families to either stay in the workplace or get back into the workplace, who are otherwise unable to do so because of the cost of day care.

Mr. KILDEE. I have been conducting field hearings for a number of years, but I have never gone to a field hearing with such a great crowd as this. But, there is a little mumbling back there which makes it difficult to hear the witness while he is trying to testify. I appreciate your zeal and I again commend you for the large turnout.

The witness may continue.

Mr. SCHOTTLAND. The availability of funding to assist parents in purchasing child care on a sliding scale, as well as the potential availability of additional funds to train child care workers, to help ensure adequate salaries for child care workers, and the additional availability of funding as an incentive to allow new providers to enter the market, would all be welcome additions to meeting the needs of families and their children.

As a representative of Kentucky's only full-service children's hospital, we strongly support this legislation.

Mr. KILDEE. Thank you very much.

[Applause.]

Mr. **Kildee**. Our next witness is Ms. Lizzie Wallace.

[The prepared statement of Edward M. Schottland follows:]

PRESENTATION TO SUBCOMMITTEE ON HUMAN RESOURCES

Good morning, my name is Edward M. Schottland and I am Senior Vice President of NKC Hospitals, a not-for-profit corporation which owns and operates two hospitals in Louisville, Kentucky and employs over 2200 full and part-time employees, 80% of which are women. The hospitals have offered a child care program to their employees since 1980, utilizing the service as one of the many benefits we offer to our employees.

Our program is operated 18 hours a day from 6 a.m. until midnight Monday through Saturday with a licensed capacity of 100. We currently take care of 82 children per day and have a total of 137 children enrolled in our program. Our program is designed to be as flexible as possible for our employees with regard to scheduling, in order to allow them to be responsive to our demands for changing work schedules. Our program currently has 80 children enrolled from our hospitals, 44 from Jewish Hospital, six from Methodist Hospital and seven from the community at large. Employees from NKC Hospitals and Jewish Hospital, which was a partner in establishing the program, are charged $13.15 per day for children under two years of age and $11.15 for children over two years of age. Our community rates are $80 per week for children under the age of two and $70 per week over the age of two. The daily rate is for up to ten hours of care with an additional charge of $2 per hour over ten hours. At the present time we have over 200 children on our waiting list, of which 144 are NKC and Jewish Hospital employees and the remainder are from the community. The average wait for an NKC or Jewish Hospital employee is from 6-12 months for a second shift employee and from 9-15 months for a day shift employee.

While it is impossible for us to determine how many families are unable to afford our services, it is clear based on observation that many families from the community as well as some of our own employees cannot afford to pay even our subsidized rates for day care. As a health care institution competing for the recruitment and retention of nurses, our day care program offers an important benefit to our employees which has helped us to be successful in our employment efforts. We are currently subsidizing our employees who participate in day care by as much as $1000 per year. And still, many of our employees are not able to afford this service. On the other hand, the health care industry is under close scrutiny with regard to their costs and consequently, we must balance our ability to help employees stay in the workplace by providing and subsidizing day care with cost constraints.

Certainly, our situation is no different than that of other businesses that are being asked to pick up the cost of care by their employees and who cannot afford to do so in either a competitive or regulated environment. The act for better child care service would provide a substantial opportunity for many families to either stay in the workplace or get back into the workplace who are otherwise unable to do so because of the cost of day care. The availability of funding to assist parents in purchasing child care on a sliding scale as well as the potential availability of additional funds to train child care workers, to help insure adequate salaries for child care workers, and the additional availability of funding as an incentive to allow new providers to enter the market would all be welcome additions to meeting the needs of families and their children. We strongly support this legislation. Thank you for the opportunity to speak.

5380g

Ms. **Wallace**. I would like to say that I am from Bracken County, not Louisville.

Mr. **Kildee**. We will make that correction.

Ms. **Wallace**. Thank you very much.

Good morning. When Mary asked me if I would speak to you here today, I was glad to, because I know how much Bracken County Center has done for me and my children.

I have children, three of them are preschoolers——

I am nervous.

Mr. **Perkins**. Sometimes your heart flutters a little bit. Do not let that worry you.

Ms. **Wallace**. I have a son that is 4 and Fred is 3. Virgil is my smallest one who will be 2 soon. I am a working parent, I have been for 13 years. I was married at 17 and I have worked for almost 11 or 12 years and had to move back. I work two jobs. I have a strong back, I am willing and able to take care of my children. I am a single parent. I moved back home and I did not know about day care. I am supporting my children, all four of them; a 12-year-old. I have like I say two others that are preschoolers and one ready to go.

There was a lady up above my mother that her child has been going to this center. I asked for information, I had to apply. From my understanding you have to be on welfare, the child has to be left alone and unattended to. You have to have a special worker to be on your case for this help. This is no good because most women who work today are strong and able to help our children the best way we can, to become independent and know what the world is about.

My two children have been in the center for 3 months and in those 3 months I have been working. Last month around the 17th I had to quit my job. Before, my children stayed with my parents, they are older and not quite ready for four kids, they have already raised ten. They helped me all they could. Okay, I tried to look for a babysitter, my job contains me from 4:30 in the morning to sometimes 11 or 1 or 2 in the evening. I was always dedicated to my job, if they called me I would come in to close and reopen the following morning, I was a breakfast cook and a good one. I have worked in restaurants all my life since I have been 17 years old and I have supported my children as I went along. I worked all the way up until pregnancy time, even the last day, because I believe that is what makes this world strong today, is having strong parents.

What they do not tell you is—the last 3 months my children have gotten more attention than they ever did and I want to say that these people are trained to help them. When I was—I did not have the time to give my children, I came and cooked their meals and washed their clothes and took care of anything that needed taking care of, but the one thing I neglected was their minds. When you have a 2-year-old ready for potty training, how are you going to potty train them when you are away from home. They are 2, maybe 4, maybe 5 years old, ready to go to kindergarten, no potty training.

I have a son that is three, he just turned three. I had him to Lexington, he had a speech problem, he did not talk, his only words was unnh and pointing. Temper tantrums constantly because I did not know what he wanted, I could not relate to this. Three months at the center has made my child call me mommy. Thank you.

This is a miracle to me because I did not have the time but I want you to know without the center, I would still be on my own somewhere in Tennessee, like I say, two jobs and a lot of time away. Now they are getting attention. But I am not qualified for my child to stay on this program any more, it was just a free program at the center. Mary told me there were two free spots open that the Presbyterian Church has funded, so either I go back on welfare, which I have to go the first of the month to apply so my children will have Medicare cards to get the help that they need.

I want you to know that it is real difficult to go into those offices and sit in front of those people and tell them what you need because they look at you like it is coming out of their pocket and it is not. We have a government. These children are the children of tomorrow, they are going to grow up and become people to vote, people to see what we have left them. Right now it is a lot of trash, it has to be cleaned up for them.

With more trained staff that they have in these centers that are qualified in their field to take care of every child's needs starting from potty trained, from two on up, because I have seen it happen, I have never known of a day care center—like I say, these are my two children that went there on a special 3-month thing. In 3 weeks I have seen them brush their teeth, wash their hands, help bathe theirselves, help break the dishes out, help clean up after themselves, say a prayer before eating, having discipline in theirselves, being independent and ain't that what this world is all about?

But if a parent has got to go outside the home to work, that time they are away is the time the child is neglected. Their minds are not getting every day care even though you stay with your child 24 hours around the clock, it is hard to relate to a 2-year-old, it is hard to relate to a 4- or an 18-month-old or a 2-month-old, because as they get older they have got to learn and you have to be prepared for that and you have got to have the training for it.

These centers do have that because I have seen it. I would never have believed it but I have seen it with my own eyes.

Like I say, 3 months is a very short time but to me when my kids get off that bus and they say things and do things they have been learning at school, I am proud to stand up here and say I am all for this bill because our kids need it.

[Applause.]

[The prepared statement of Lizzie Wallace follows:]

PRESBYTERIAN CHILD WELFARE AGENCY
BUCKHORN CHILDREN'S CENTER
PROSPECT HOUSE GROUP HOME • CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTERS
BUCKHORN, KENTUCKY 41721 • (606) 398-7245

April 23, 1988

TESTIMONY Before United States Congressional Committee
on Education and Labor, Subcommitte on Human
Resources
Executive Inn, Louisville, Kentucky

Dear Members of the Congress of United States:

My name is Mary Johnson, and I am the Director of the Breathitt County Child Development Center here in Kentucky, which is operated by the Presbyterian Child Welfare Agency/Buckhorn Children's Center. It's my pleasure to introduce Ms. Lizzie Wallace, who has two children in our Center.

Good Morning:

When Mary asked me if I would consider speaking to you here today, I said I would because of how much the Breathitt County Center has done for me and my children.

I am a single mother, with four children and three of them are preschoolers. Carla Mae is 4, Fred is 3 and both of them attend Mary's Center. Hershel is not quite 2, but I hope he will be able to go to the Center when he's old enough.

I live in a house that could be a lot better, since we have no running water and no indoor toilet. It's also very cold in the winter, so I have to move with the children to my mother's house in cold weather.

I recently had a job at Hardy's working 6 days a week, but I had to quit my job to take better care of my children, since that was just too much for my mother. My job didn't pay very well, and I couldn't afford day care.

Mary has told me that, whether I was working or not, there was no money from the State or Federal Government to help pay for day care for my children. About 3 months ago she told me that there would be two free spots available in her Center for my children. These are paid for by gifts from good Presbyterians from Kentucky and other states. I'm very thankful for what Mary and those Christian people have done for my kids, but Congress must help all the mothers who are not as lucky as I have been.

Continued
Page 2

Mary has told me that it costs $22.00 a day for each child at the Center. Don't you think that's a lot to ask church people to do when the Government has a responsibility to help too?

I feel day care is really necessary and I can see how it has helped my children in so many ways to develop and grow. I had my son Fred evaluated in Lexington because he was having a lot of trouble speaking, but now he is talking a blue streak and is potty-trained too!

Soon my youngest boy will be old enough to attend Mary's Center, I just hope there will be enough money so that can happen. Then I will be able to go back to work and stop depending on welfare, or feeling I'm neglecting my children.

Thank you. I'd be happy to try to answer any questions you have.

Lizzie Wallace
Box 78, Route 1
Jackson, KY 41339

Ms. LOCKE. Mr. Chairman, I would like to add just for a point of clarification, Mrs. Wallace is in one of the districts that has not been able to serve any low income working families for this fiscal year and in her testimony that is what she is referring to, is that she would have to have had substantiated abuse or neglect of her children in order to get child care, the funds were not available to her as a working parent when she was working.

Mr. KILDEE. Thank you very much, I appreciate that. And we appreciate your testimony, it was very, very helpful. When negative things exist in government, government has the obligation to remove the absurdity and the injustice and I think you brought some things to our attention. We will do everything in our power to help remedy that. Thank you very much.

Our next witness is Ms. Nelle Horlander of Louisville, KY.

Ms. HORLANDER. Could I have the super microphone? [Laughter.]

I would like to say that I am from Louisville, my office is in Louisville, I am originally from Barren County, but my territory in my job is all of Kentucky. I know people in eastern Kentucky, western Kentucky and all over the State.

I am the staff person for Communications Workers of America and also the State vice President of the Coalition of Labor Union Women. Recently I was in Washington. This is one of our five major bills. I talked to Chris and Ron and our other five House Members and our two Senators concerning the bill in the Senate. I am real proud of Ron and Chris and I am not too proud of many others at this point, but hopefully they will make us proud soon.

I want to thank at the outset Mr. Kildee for coming to our State. This is the best State in the Nation, regardless of what people tell you in Michigan. [Laughter.]

We have the best people, we have the smartest children. Be sure the record shows we do not give them that much attention or throw enough money at the educational system or do the right thing, but we have the smartest people in the country.

Mr. KILDEE. I know a number of them have come to Michigan—[Laughter.]

Mr. KILDEE. I know they are really smart because virtually all of them vote for me. [Laughter.]

Ms. HORLANDER. The president of my National Union, Morton Bahr, has testified on this bill early, and I was not able to find out what he said, but I got out old day care boxes that I have with all kinds of stuff in it to prepare some remarks along with a fact sheet on this particular bill and since hearing some of this testimony, I find that I do not really have anything that can put it home like these people, and I realized that.

But I would like to say that we in the labor movement have for years been an advocate of quality child care. My own union through the Joseph Anthony Beirne Memorial Foundation provided funds along with a couple of others—I think Phillip Morris was one and maybe one other one—to provide a documentary made by Kentuckians, Ruth Stratford and some others, and we had some showings here as well as all over the nation, and it was entitled "Who's Taking Care of our Kids". This was just an awareness thing to say what is happening in day care, what is happening in our child care. I hope that helps. We have had workshops, awareness programs and have, I hope, been a driving force to what I believe is at long last an awareness of the lack of and the need for quality child care in this nation.

I was not as interested I do not think, although for years I served on the Day Care Allocations Committee of Metro United Way and I saw the needs of the child care centers that we had here in the Louisville area, I know the situation in Kentucky. But in the last 5 years I have had three grandchildren and there is nothing like bringing it home to you till you get grandchildren. I was one of 10 children, my mother took care of us, my mother did not work, my mother went through the eighth grade in Kentucky and my father worked and we were the traditional family, she took care of the kids. She also took care of my two kids, one now is 24 yesterday and one is 22.

But in the last 5 years my daughter has had three children, one is 18 months, one is 3 years and one is 5 years. She works, she is working now today. She works 6 days a week. She makes $150 clear a week and the day care is $100 a week for her three children. She does get some subsidy from Purchase of Day Care, thank God. They are in a child care, church operated child care, which is very good. I can relate to what the young lady said because the oldest one, the 5 year old now, pronounces a lot of words right and I was worried about his speech impediment really, I was going to send him to try to get something done about it. He has cleared that up, the second one talks real good, has not had any problem, and the youngest one does not have any problems either. In fact, I just left them at 8:30 this morning to give them to their father who is caring for them today. I will have them back tonight probably.

But it is sad. When I shuffled my two from the west end to the south end and mother's to get to my job, when I got to my job I just felt like a day's work had been done on the driving two children 18 months apart across town. It would have been so nice if we had had on-site day care near my employer. It would have been so nice to have a choice. There were none then I do not think available for me at the job that I had. I worked at the telephone company, and I am sure there was no way I could even get any help.

We have bargained for on-site day care, referral services, you name it, all over the Nation. And some unions have owned and operated day cares years ago for their members. Many of them have just recently had to close, they closed when the factories closed in some communities. A lot of my sisters in the labor movement in other unions, as well as my brothers, have been preaching for years for quality day care and affordable and available day care, child care.

Shortly after the Coalition of Labor Union Women was formed in 1974, a committee of my CLUW sisters visited child care facilities in Israel, Sweden and France. They found that these facilities strengthened families when mothers were working, as we know and as these people have said here today. In these three countries visited, trade unionists were in the forefront of the movement to have their respective governments provide more and better facilities for children of working mothers. We believe that the Federal Government must be involved, as well as employers, unions, local and State governments, churches and yes, everyone. Our children are the future of this Nation.

Today, families constantly are being forced to make wrenching choices between very basic needs. Too many parents face incredible stress and anguish wondering whether they can keep their job or whether they will be able to care for their child.

This simply is wrong. We are the richest Nation in the world. How can we desert our families? How can we let these terrible choices exist?

We must work towards eradicating these problems lest the backbone of America, the family, begin to fall apart.

H.R. 3660, the ABC bill, will be the beginning and is long, long overdue.

Mothers must work. They work to pay the bills, not for pin money. The Congressional Joint Economic Committee has reported that without the shift of women into the labor force, real family income would have declined 18 percent since 1973. Yet our public policy still conforms to our outmoded "father knows best" notion of family life.

Since family members must work to survive, the need for child care is crucial. But there is virtually nothing there. There is space available in existing licensed child care centers and family homes for only about 6 million children, or only 25 percent of the 24 million children under the age of 13 in need of day care. In Kentucky—some figures which somebody might have already given, at least I found these figures—showed that there was room for only 31 percent of the children in need of child care centers, and the picture is probably worse today.

Child care alone is not enough; it must be quality child care. There are too many stories of children left in poor quality care arrangements who suffer tragic consequences. Yet quality child care is very hard to find: 75 percent of infants in day care are left with largely unlicensed family care providers. We all remember little Jessica in Texas, we have heard it for weeks and weeks. That is the granddaughter of a CWA member in Texas.

Only eight States require training for child care workers. And these workers are paid appalling low wages and no benefits. So most women workers—and also another appalling figure, most women workers who work in the clerical field or the service field, and that is another problem and some more legislation which I will not go into, we all know what those are—it is a horrible thing, with low wages trying to care for your children and yet a lot of single families, not because the women are unmarried but because husbands have vacated the family home. And I am sure there are some fathers where mothers have vacated the family home. But at least the ladies are more usual than the males.

In the White House Conference on Families here I think back in 1977, I talked on day care and entered onto the record some of these things, and I remember doing some research and looking at the Dictionary of Occupational Titles and the salary for a dog catcher is more than a child care worker. And many, many other job titles with less importance, there could be no more important job than taking care of the future of this country, our children. But it was much less.

The ABC bill with the $2.5 billion is a small investment to make in America's future. Failure to support good child care only will produce higher costs for us in the long run, and we know, it has already been pointed out here where that will be, in the prisons and in the delinquency of our juveniles.

Public policy must start recognizing the changed nature of the work force and society.

The Metro United Way had a conference here and one of the speakers was the President of the Coalition of Labor Union Women, Joyce Miller. At that conference there was also a professor who asked the audience about the traditional family; how many husband, wife, two kids, et cetera, everybody was holding up their hand. A lot of business people were there and some of the real sharp business people of this community. This was just last year or the year before. I saw everybody raising their hand and I think me and maybe Libby Grever and a few other metro people, Linda or whomever was there, were the only ones left when it got down below 10 percent. This professor went on to say, hey, you are right, that few that was left, because most people thought that was still the traditional family. Maybe that was their family but not of the American working mothers and the working families in this country.

Again, I sincerely hope that this legislation will become law and anything that we can do in the labor movement, we would be glad to do it. Last week I had on my calendar that it was Child Care Week and there were going to be some programs on some of the stations, NBC or what have you. I did not get to see any of those, but at our Coalition of Labor Union Women meeting night before last—at least one of our members is here now—one of the other members, who is not here, who is working today, said it was very good what was on there and there was a lot of awareness, she thought it accomplished a lot except she did not like the way it was put there that labor has finally got into the act. And she said that is what she got out of it. So I do not know, I did not see it, but I just want everybody to know that unions serve one purpose and that is helping people, the dignity of people. We sometimes speak out for people who are not our members, we do not have anybody making minimum wage who is a member of a union. Our women make more than the average woman out there, the unorganized woman. But we speak out because it is the right thing to do and we are concerned about people and that is our only reason for belonging, and existing actually. So I just wanted to make that point. Thank you all again.

Mr. Kildee. Thank you very much.

[Applause.]

Mr. Kildee. Ms. Brodley.

[The prepared statement of Nelle P. Horlander follows:]

4/23/88 - Louisville, Kentucky

Testimony of Nelle P. Horlander
4008 Serene Way
Louisville, Kentucky 40219

Title Communications Workers of America Representative-Kentucky
Kentucky Vice President Coalition of Labor Union Women

We in the labor movement have for years been an advocate of quality child care. My own Union (CWA) through the Joseph Anthony Beirne Memorial Foundation provided funds along with others to prepare a documentary made by Kentuckians entitled "Who's Taking Care of our Kids." We have had workshops, awareness programs and have, I hope, been a driving force to what I believe is at long last an awareness of the lack of and the need for quality child care.

We have bargained for on-site day care, voucher systems, referral services, etc. Shortly after the coalition of Labor Union Women was formed in 1974, a Committee of my CLUW Sisters visited child care facilities in Israel, Sweden, and France. They found that these facilities strengthened families when mothers were working. In the three countries visited trade unionists were in the forefront of the movement to have their respective governments provide more and better facilities for children of working mothers. We believe that the Federal Government must be involved as well as employers, unions, local and state government, and everyone. Our children are the future of this Nation.

Today, families constantly are being forced to make wrenching choices between very basic needs. Too many parents face incredible stress and anguish wondering whether they can keep their job or whether they will be able to care for their child.

This simply is wrong. We are the richest nation in the world. How can we desert our families? How can we let these terrible choices exist?

We must work towards eradicating these problems lest the backbone of America, the family, begin to fall apart.

HR 3660 will be a beginning and is long overdue.

Mothers must work. They work to pay the bills, not for pin money. The Congressional Joint Economic Committee has reported that without the shift of women into the labor force, real family income would have declined 18% since 1973. Yet our public policy still conforms to the outmoded "Father Knows Best" notion of the family life.

Since family members must work to survive, the need for child care is crucial. But there is virtually nothing there. There is space available in existing licensed child care centers and family homes for only about six million children, or only 25% of the 24 million children under the age of 13 in need of such care. In Kentucky, 1980 figures showed there was room for only

31% of the children in need of child care and the picture today has possibly worsened.

Child care alone is not enough; it must be quality care. There are too many stories of children left in poor quality care arrangements who suffer tragic consequences. Yet quality child care is very hard to find: 75% of infants in day care are left with largely unlicensed family care providers.

Moreover, only eight states require training for child care workers. And these workers are paid appalling low wages and no benefits.

The bottom line is that our child care system is completely inadequate to serve American family needs. And private sector efforts, while very important, cannot handle this serious problem alone. The federal government must provide some support and standards.

The Act for Better Child Care (H.R. 3660 and S. 1885) is an essential step toward decent family care. It should be a top priority for Congress, just as the need for child care is a top priority for American families.

The ABC bill would:

- Provide $2.5 billion in child care assistance, 75% of which would go directly to families in need of help. State agencies could either provide direct payment to child care providers or certificates to parents. (It is estimated that Kentucky's share of monies would be 47.8 million.)
- Make all families with incomes up to 115% of the state median income eligible for assistance, on a sliding fee scale to target aid to those most in need.
- Support training of child care personnel; and
- Provide for the creation of a national advisory panel to develop minimum federal standards for the quality of child care such as child/staff ratios and group size standards and licensing requirements, among other provisions.

This is a small investment to make in America's future. Failure to support good child care only will produce higher costs for us all in the long run.

Public policy must start recognising the changed nature of the work force and of society. Families no longer should be forced to choose between their economic livelihood and their children.

I want to thank Representative Kildee and the Subcommittee on Human Resources for coming to our city and Kentucky to hear our story. I also want to commend the many members of Congress including our Kentucky Congressmen, Chris Perkins and Ron Mazzoli, for cosponsoring H.R. 3660. I sincerely hope this legislation will become law.

Ms. **Brodley**. Gentlemen of the committee, I would first like to commend her on her testimony because I think she gave you something that was real, this is the real world, as you said earlier. And we have to look at it that way.

My husband was unable to be with me today so I will speak for the both of us. I would like to thank you and my Congressman, Ron Mazzoli, for inviting me here today to tell you my story and express my support for the ABC bill.

My name is Margaret Brodley and I have three small children; one 3, one 5 years old and one 9 months old, quite a handful there. I also hold an 8 to 4 job and my husband holds a 3 to 11 job. This creates a problem for us because he leaves at 2:30 in the afternoon to go to work and I do not get home until 4:45, when I get off at 4. So our children are kind of in limbo from 2:30 to 4:45. It is a supreme problem to call somebody up and say I have these three children and you have to watch them because I cannot get home, or my husband has to be late for work and he is almost ready to be fired from his job because he has been late so many times when he has not been able to find child care. When I do find sitters for my children, I have to spread them out in three different areas of the city because it is very, very hard for just one person to adequately take care of three small children at those ages. So it takes me about 2 hours on a bus trip, with no transportation, and about six bus transfers, just to get my children to someone who can sit with them until I can get home and then we've got to get back. So that is one major problem.

I have been on a waiting list for child care help about these problems for 8 months before my review was even considered. When it was considered, they informed that since my husband worked nights, that he could babysit during the day. But if he were to receive a day time job, that they would fund us the money, the subsidy for our day care. Well he cannot straggle three children in to an interview, so that was impossible and we had no means for day care under those programs.

Needless to say, we are still on the waiting list and nothing has come up as yet. I feel that not having the funds for child care has hurt my husband and myself but most of all my children.

I have a daughter for whom a member of my family paid $55 a week in the year of 1987 and 1986 in a preschool grant program. In 1987 we did not have the money to send her back and that left her without any structural learning that whole summer and the following year. My daughter is now 5 years old and is ready for kindergarten, but she is not really ready. In 1986 she took a pre-kindergarten test for a private school here in Louisville on a grant program and she did exceptionally well. She was in the preschool program at that time. They thought she was so bright and intelligent, that they just could not wait to get her in, let her turn 5 right now. This year, she is 5 and she is ready to enter kindergarten, and without her having that structured learning last summer and this past year, she took that same pre-entrance exam this year and she was one of the lowest scorers of all the children that took the test. I tried my best to distribute myself between my three children. I have a study hour with my daughter, but it is very hard and I have a very, very small young son, who you just cannot leave aside and say I have to help your sister with her work. So she has really lost a lot of intelligence, you know, she has forgotten so much, she has to start from the bottom and work her way back up when she could already be up there with the rest of the kindergarten children. I feel that if we had had a child care faculty with some structure that she would have been able to keep up with her classmates.

Finding care for me is just not easy at all, but when I do, I feel I make very good choices. But sometime ago, I left all three of my children with a friend who has an 8 year old son. My youngest child was about 2 months old and he needed more supervision and time than the other children did. My oldest child was 4 and was sexually molested by my friend's son. She is still in counseling for that and I feel that if she had had adequate quality child care, that would have never happened, because she would have been more supervised, more closely watched, and I am certain that would not have happened.

I feel that the ABC bill, if it passes, will allow working mothers like me to provide adequate quality child care for their children in a well supervised environment that will really help them learn and grow. Therefore, the tragedies of unsupervised children in child care and abusive child care situations will lessen for many working parents. And working parents can feel safe about leaving their children in this environment because a lot of times you think I have no other choice, I have to leave my children here, and you worry the whole time you are at work. You have to know how they are doing because you do not really know what type of environment they are in, except for that is my friend from down the street and I had to leave my children there because I have to make a living, you know, there is no other way you can survive without making a living for your children. Our children are the future. So if they are not given a safe environment to live in, what can we look forward to, what kind of world are we leaving when we grow old.

Thank you again for inviting me here today. I certainly appreciate you listening to my testimony and I will be glad to answer any questions.

Mr. KILDEE. Thank you, Mrs. Brodley, very much.

[Applause.]

Mr. KILDEE. Ms. Billingslea.

[The prepared statement of Margaret Brodley follows:]

Testimony by: Margaret Brodley
112 Stoll Ave.
Louisville, KY 40206

On: HB 3660 - The Act for Better Child Care

Presented to: House Committee on Education and Labor
Subcommittee on Human Resources
Dale E. Kildee, Chairman

At the Field Hearing

Date: April 23, 1988

Place: Executive Inn
Louisville, KY

I would like to thank you, and my Congressman, Congressman Mazzoli for inviting me here today to tell my story and express my support for the ABC Bill (HR 3660). My name is Margaret Brodley, and I have three small children ages, 5, 3, and 9 months. I also hold an 8:00 - 4:00 job and my husband a 3:00 - 11:00 job. This creates a major problem for me regarding child care arrangements, because my husband leaves at 2:30 p.m. to get to work at 3:00 p.m. on the bus and I get off work at 4:00 p.m. I don't get home until 4:45 p.m. This leaves my children in limbo from 2:30 - 4:45 p.m. I do not leave my children with just anyone, so a lot of times asking persons on the spur of the moment to watch three kids that day is impossible. When I do find sitters for my children it is usually three different ones on three different areas of the city. I have no transportation so it takes two hours or more to get the children to their destinations with about six bus transfers.

I was on a waiting list for child care to help with these problems, but it was eight months before I was even considered for a review. I was then informed that since my husband worked nights he could babysit during the day, or he could get a daytime job and then they would subsidize my child care. I expressed that he can't get a day job without a babysitter. Needless to say, I am still on a waiting list. I feel that not having funds for child care has hurt my husband, myself, but most of all my children.

I have a daughter for whom a member of the family paid $55/week to go to a public preschool grant program in the 1986-87 school year. In 1987-88 we did not have the money to send her back and that left her without any structural learning that whole summer and the following year. My daughter is now 5 year old and is ready for kindergarten, but, not really. In 1986-87 she took a pre-kindergarten test for a private school in Louisville and did so well they could not wait to get her because they said she was so bright and intelligent. She had no structured learning in between that time and this year, when she took the same entrance test she was among the lowest scores. I could not believe it when I had worked with her so hard but with three kids, I can't devote myself to just one. If she had been in a child care facility, she would have been able to keep up with her other classmates.

Finding care is not easy for me, but when I do, I feel I make very good choices. Some time ago I left all three of my children with a friend who had an 8 year old son. My youngest child was about 2 months old at the time and needed much supervision. My oldest child was 4 years old and was sexually molested by my friend's son. She is still in counseling. If I had adequate child care for my children this would never have happened.

I feel if the ABC Bill passes it will allow working parents, like me, to provide adequate quality child care for their children in a well supervised environment that will allow them to learn and grow. Therefore, the tragedies of unsupervised child care and abusive child care will lessen and many working parents could feel safe about leaving their children in this environment.

Our children are the future, so if they are not given a safe environment, what can we look for in the future.

Thank you again for inviting me today. I will be glad to answer any questions.

Ms. **Billingslea**. I would like to say good morning to all, I appreciate you listening to me today.

My name is Maria Billingslea and I am happy to announce that I am the mother of 8-month-old twin boys. I am a single working parent. My mother has been caring for my babies since they have been born and as of yesterday she stopped baby-sitting for me, and Monday I have to work and I have no one to care for them. I checked with a couple of day care centers and they have very long waiting lists and I am in an emergency need situation right now and I do not know what to do. I do not receive support from their father because he is not working and I do not know what to do right now.

I feel that if this bill is passed, it will help out a lot of people. I have tried with my family and friends and they are either working or going to school, so—and the people that I do ask to babysit my twins, it is a big turnoff because they cannot, you know, babysit two babies that small at one time. It is true that I am in need of assistance to care for my children, but I do not want to leave my job and apply for aid. I am hanging on a string trying to hold down a job and provide the best care for my children. I am very—I do not know what to do, with my situation, how to approach a nonsupportive father that this burden is not just mine. It does not seem that the child care program is enough since he is unemployed. I do not see any reason to have to quit my job or my children go unattended while I work.

I would like to also say that as a single or married parent, it is a very time consuming, costly job and sometimes transportation is a problem.

Children will not stay small forever, but they are our future and without professional quality care and safety measurements, they will not have a future.

I feel this is something that should not be ignored. Thank you.

[The prepared statement of Maria Billingslea follows:]

TESTIMONY OF
MARIA BILLINGSLEA
BEFORE THE SUBCOMMITTEE ON HUMAN RESOURCES
APRIL 23, 1988

Good Morning to all.

I am very honored to be here this morning and would like to thank the subcommittee for allowing me to speak my opinion on the act for better child care.

My name is Maria A. Billingslea. I am a single working parent taking care of my 8 month twin boys. (Anthony/Andre).

I am here this morning because I am one of many parents who needs assistance in quality child care. Right now my mother, who has provided for my babies since birth, stopped caring for my children on April 22, 1988. So, at the present moment, I'm in an emergency situation. Come Monday, April 25th, 1988, I will have no one to care for my children. I can't afford to quit my job. I don't know what to do. The father of my twins hasn't been very supportive in any ways. I have contacted a few day care centers, 4c's, Eighteenth Street Baptist Church Day Care Center and Purchase of Care. I have asked family and friends; neither are available. The day care centers have told me their waiting lists are long and my income exceeds their limit, or I couldn't afford the cost.

It's true I'm in need of assistance like many others for better child care. I don't want to leave my job and apply for aide. I'm hanging on by a string trying to make ends meet - to hold down a job to provide the best care for my children.

How do I approach the non-supporting father of my twins - that this burden is not just mine. It seems court isn't enough. I don't see any reason to have to quit my job or for my children to go unattended while I work since he's not. I would also like to say that as a single or married parent it is a very time-consuming, costly job, and sometimes transportation is a problem for some. Our children won't stay small forever, for they are the future, and without that professional quality child care assistance and safety measurements - they won't have a future.

I feel this bill shouldn't be ignored. There are many people, as I, who need this assistance. I hope this bill passes.

Again, I appreciate the opportunity to be here and I appreciate the work you are doing to help people like me. We really do need assistance.

Thank you.

Mr. Kildee. Thank you very much for your testimony.

[Applause.]

Mr. Kildee. As you were testifying, the thought occurred to me that the crisis you face next Monday might not have been there had the President not have vetoed that bill back in 1972, because by this time we would have had an infrastructure in place. That is one of the purposes of the ABC bill, not only to give assistance to an individual mother or her children but to help and encourage that creation of infrastructure. That set things back 16 years and I could not help thinking while you were testifying how things might have been different had he not vetoed that bill.

I have a few questions here and then I will defer to Mr. Mazzoli again. Mr. Schottland, how do you see quality child care affecting the productivity of workers in any situation?

Mr. Schottland. I think I can best respond to that in terms of the benefits we see it providing our own employees in our own workplace. Because we have a day care which is only a block from our institution, it allows the mothers who are working in our hospital the opportunity to feel comfortable while they are in the workplace. They are not concerned during the day about where their children are and what the quality of care is that they are receiving. Consequently, from a management point of view, we are sure that it improves productivity in our workplace.

We also have the flexibility, since it is only a block away, for them to come during the day and visit their children and I think that is a significant advantage for any mother who has to put a child in a day care center so she can work and be separated from the child during the day.

Mr. Kildee. Specifically, do you feel that things like absenteeism, which is an increasing problem in American business, can be reduced if you have a child care system?

Mr. Schottland. I think there is no question that we consider that the provision of child care for our employees has improved our ability to retain employees, it has reduced their absence from the workplace due to illness, improved their ability to be there and not have to take time off because of their children's needs because they know that service is available in our facility.

Mr. Kildee. I might point out I have not yet read the letter supplied to us by Congressman Perkins from Ashland Oil, but I appreciate their support of this bill. I am sure their support is based upon many principle, one being morality, but I think business finds the lack of good child care in this country has caused some serious problems in productivity and absenteeism.

Mr. Schottland. Yes, it has. There is no question that if it is not available, then the employee has to start searching, just as some of these mothers have already described, day to day for their requirements so they can get to work each day.

Mr. Kildee. There are a large number of people, probably more women than men, who are nurses. Hospitals must now compete for nurses. Day care might be one of the attractive things to bring someone to a hospital.

Mr. Schottland. No question about it. We consider the fact that we have a day care as one of our most significant competitive advantages that we have over other hospitals in our own community in terms of recruiting nurses and keeping them. They know it is going to take them 6 to 12 months to get into the program but in many cases at least they have the lead time to get signed up and get into it. So we do not lose them when they are ready to come back to work.

Mr. **Kildee**. Mr. Mazzoli.

Mr. **Mazzoli**. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. I want to salute this panel as well. We have had excellent witnesses all day long. I would like to say if you ever come back to Louisville, Dale, I want you to meet Ms. Frankie Pitcock, who happens to be Nelle's mother. She is the lady to whom she was referring, she is what my daddy used to call a real pistol.

Ms. **Horlander**. She is in Oklahoma, Ron, or she would have been here.

Mr. **Mazzoli**. Well Frankie and I have been friends for a long time and she is a sweet lady.

Mr. Chairman, I had a chance to go through the NKC facility when we had our meeting on February 16, and it is an excellent facility and Ms. Smith—I think her name is Joyce Smith—who is the Director, I think did a fine job explaining to me what was going on. And I am sure, as you have stated, this is becoming a very important package.

Let me just ask this one question, Ed. I believe my statistics are correct, but if they are not, I think they are illustrative of a point. The IRS considers there are about 6 million employers in the United States and the stats I have say that there are only 3,000 of those 6 million employers who provide day care assistance, and only a handful, relatively a few hundred of those 3,000 that actually provide a day care either on the place, on site, or nearby. Could I ask you if you have seen the literature or if you are studying it along with your colleagues? Does it appear to be business is now entering this field in a more aggressive way and a more knowing way? Are the numbers swelling of businesses, companies that are now providing day care?

Mr. **Schottland**. I can speak for the hospital industry because that is the major area that I read about, and there is no question that nationally hospitals are beginning to look harder and harder at establishing their own day care centers because of the need to meet the requirements of the majority of their employees which are women. Across the country we are finding hospitals opening day care centers just for that purpose.

Mr. **Mazzoli**. May I ask you—the chairman has to catch a plane and I do not want to detain him, he has been extremely generous with his time—just very briefly to address this one question. There are people in the room who, if the chairman is indulgent enough further on his time, will be able to make a few statements here, who oppose this bill and possibly all forms of day care—Federal day care initiatives, because they are concerned, among other things, about whether or not it is correct that the Federal Government is somehow in a role of molding the American family and molding the American child.

Let me ask, going from left to right, if you all can address as briefly as you can, do you feel, just in your own self that there is any concern on your part that your children will be made different than you want them to be because they are in the control of or in the presence of, for long periods of time, people that are not their parents?

Ms. **Wallace**. I think that the child——

Mr. **Mazzoli**. Bring the microphone closer please.

Ms. **Wallace**. I feel the child learns better outside the home and I feel they should be in a day care center with people that are trained in these fields and not on the street. If we can give the child just one step, a chance to hold on, they will start changing to be a better person like we want them to be.

Mr. **Mazzoli**. You feel a child can learn better outside the home than in the home?

Ms. **Wallace**. In a center where there are people that teach them, that is why we send our kids to school. By the time they get five, look at the space—look at the little things they should have already learned. That is where mothers cannot be home with their children to teach those things, like picking up after themselves, saying the right, you know, sounds of words. This prepares them.

Mr. **Mazzoli**. So your summation is that you feel in your own personal case that your children are better for having had contact with people in a day care setting.

Ms. **Wallace**. Yes.

Mr. **Mazzoli**. May I ask the young lady on your left if she will address this briefly. I know you have a traumatic situation personally, but have you any concern that somehow a day care center will make your children different, give them different values, different principles, different ethical structures than you would want them to have?

Ms. **Billingslea**. I feel that——

Mr. **Mazzoli**. Pull the microphone a little bit closer.

Ms. **Billingslea**. I feel if someone has to work and be away from their children and if they are around caring people and not being abused, they learn well.

Mr. **Mazzoli**. The lady, if I could, Ms. Brodley I believe, if you could address the same thing. Are you concerned at all about whether or not your children will be your children after they have been in the presence of or control of, the tutelage of a day care center?

Ms. **Brodley**. I think you have to look at—there are so many young, teen-aged mothers with no husbands, no boyfriends to support the children or to come over and help the children, so you have to think what are you talking about when you say if it is right to put them in day care and have day care teach them. Who taught a 13- or 14-year-old child to raise a child? There are so many young teen-aged mothers these days that you have to have someone to help them.

When I was 16, I had my first child, and if I had not had a school program called CAP here in Louisville that taught me a little bit about how to be a parent, and the day care center that my children used to be in that taught me some things that I needed to do at home, my children would not be where they are today, and they are very responsible children now.

Mr. **Mazzoli**. Thank you very much, I appreciate that testimony. Mr. Chairman, thank you very much.

Mr. **Kildee**. On that point, I think that is one of the reasons the ABC bill encourages, in fact, requires parental involvement every step of the way. I think that is very important because ultimately the parents want to have a selection of day care options to choose from. Maybe they would find one option is not what they really want, but in that day care situation we encourage parental involvement, so the ethics and morality of that parent are constantly woven into that partnership there while the mother and father are working.

Mr. Perkins.

Mr. **Perkins**. I have very few comments to make at this juncture, I certainly have very few questions in my own mind. I thank you, Lizzie, for coming up and I am going to be in Jackson tonight at seven to meet some postmasters so we will not be in the same part of the country.

But you know, I am very interested in this entire question of access to two jobs from the female population, let us say, with the lack of available centers today and with the lack of available situations of getting into employment. I question—I suppose I wonder really, in terms of employment by the employer, in the community today and across America, how much do you think it is taken into consideration what a family's situation is prior to that person being hired for a particular job?

Mr. **Schottland**. I think that business is always concerned when it makes a selection of an employee whether or not that employee is going to be able to make it to work every day and whether they make a conscious decision at the point of employment or whether they have to evaluate later during the course of employment whether the employee is meeting those requirements, it is always going to be a consideration. So anything such as this act which is going to assist the employee in meeting their obligations to be at the workplace is going to be of great benefit.

Mr. **Perkins**. So as I am hearing you, from the employer standpoint, we have a structural problem that makes it more difficult for those, not only who just do not have the availability of child care services, but those who are attempting to get employed, to obtain and retain a working position.

Mr. **Schottland**. I think it can be a real catch 22.

Mr. **Perkins**. Thank you.

Mr. **Kildee**. Do you have any questions?

Ms. **Fiske**. No.

Mr. **Kildee**. Just one question of Mrs. Brodley. Someone has suggested a tax credit would be more helpful to parents than the type of direct assistance that the ABC bill would employ. What is your feeling on that?

Ms. **Brodley**. Excuse me?

Mr. **Kildee**. Someone suggested a tax credit might be more helpful and a better way to approach child care than the type of assistance the ABC bill contemplates. Do you have any feelings on that?

Ms. **Brodley**. To deduct that, you mean?

Mr. **Kildee**. A tax credit, right.

Ms. **Brodley**. [No response.]

Mr. **Mazzoli**. You have to be a CPA to answer that one.

Ms. **Brodley**. A tax credit—oh, OK.

Mr. **Mazzoli**. Something of a refundable income tax credit, where you get that credit paid to you if you do not have enough income tax to apply the credit again, so in effect you would get—that is another way to distribute money to people who do not have tax bills to pay.

Ms. **Brodley**. What about the people that cannot afford——

Mr. **Mazzoli**. If the chairman would indulge me for a moment we will try to get some testimony on that very point.

Mr. **Kildee**. Thank you very much.

Mr. **Mazzoli**. Mr. Chairman, I would like to make a request of you, and I know you have been so indulgent of your time, I realize you have to catch a plane back to Washington, but Mr. Chairman, could I ask your indulgence and that of the subcommittee to hear from the group of people who came in and are in the back of the room who would like to have 10 minutes of your time and our time to convey their concerns about this bill and if they can do that within 10 minutes, would the chairman be disposed to hearing that?

Mr. **Kildee**. I will be glad to. Even though that particular bill is not before our committee, I certainly allowed Mr. Holloway to speak on Thursday in support of his bill and I will be glad to hear them.

[Applause.]

Mr. **Mazzoli**. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. I think that is an indication of the kind of Chairman Mr. Kildee is. If we could have this panel excused. We thank you very much for your time. If we could ask the representatives of the group in the back, whichever ones you have elected, to come forward and make your statement please.

If you would, for purposes of the record, slowly pronounce your name and spell it for the reporter please.

Mr. **Kildee**. We will stop for a moment while the reporter changes his tape.

[Brief pause.]

Mr. **Kildee**. Identify yourself for the record.

STATEMENT OF CAROLYN JOHNSON, COALITION FOR FREEDOM OF CHOICE IN CHILD CARE

Ms. **Johnson**. My name is Carolyn Johnson and I am a member of the Coalition for Freedom of Choice in Child Care.

Upon making inquiry regarding testifying at today's hearing, I was told that all witnesses had been prearranged and was directed to put into writing any statement that I wished to have made part of the public record of this meeting. I did write a letter, but I am very pleased now that you all have consented to allow approximately 10 minutes of the last 3 hours for the grassroots people who have no financial interest to be gained in this legislation but are simply paying the bills, to present their point of view.

I am the mother of three children ages 5 to 12, and for the last 16 years have been involved professionally in many aspects of child care and early childhood education, from part time teaching in the classroom to school social work and full time directorship of a Head Start Program. Most recently, I was a consultant with the 4-

C Agency here in Louisville. My comments are based on that experience and my long-standing personal commitment to the children and families of our country.

Although I fully endorse the concept that our political and economic system should be supportive of families of young children and that there are good aspects to this legislation, as you have had testimony on today. I have heard very many witnesses who have told you of real problems in the area of child care, and those people definitely are in need of help and we support helping those folks.

I also must point out the following deficiencies in the Dodd-Kildee Act for Better Child Care.

One, the bill is discriminatory against low- and moderate-income families who choose to provide care for their children in their own homes. And if I might, I would like to introduce to you now Helen Barnett. She and her husband Curt live in Spencer County. They have two children, age 2—4 months and 6 years of age. She and her husband, at their highest ever income level have made $18,000 a year. Yet Mrs. Barnett and her husband and their two children will be required to pay taxes that if this legislation is passed could be used to support other families with two working members who are making up to $46,000 a year.

Two, it is discriminatory against families who choose care by relatives, friends or neighbors. No family would have freedom of choice to place their children with any of these people and receive assistance under this program.

Three, it includes languages requiring flagrant discrimination against families who freely choose religiously affiliated child care.

Four, excellent child care arrangements would be made more costly or driven out of business if certain providers would have to compete with other providers who are being subsidized by Federal money.

Five, the tax benefit per child would be an estimated $50 to $150 annually, while other proposed legislation, specifically the Holloway bill, would provide an estimated $150 to $400 annually through a reform of the child care tax credit system.

I trust that you and your colleagues will, in the best interest of all our country's children, deal with these deficiencies before any consideration is given to passage of this bill.

I also have letters from two other families related to this bill. I will not take the time to read them now, but these are also low- and moderate-income families that have chosen to provide care for their children in the home and they are opposed to this legislation. I would like for them to be made part of the record.

Mr. KILDEE. They will be part of the official record if you will leave them with the reporter.

Ms. JOHNSON. Thank you.

[The information referred to follows:]

April 23, 1988

To Whom It May Concern:

I'm a single mother, 33 yrs old with a daughter 2 yrs. old. I have a full time position as a Sterile Processing Technician at Humana Hospital University making $5.29 an hr. This means I net $605.00 per month. My day care expenses are $250.00 per month since I have to work every other weekend. My rent is $300.00 per month which includes all utilities. So, I spend $550.00 per month which leaves me with $55.00 for food, gas, doctor bills, etc. I have tried to get government assistance for food stamps, rent assistance, etc. but have been refused because I was told I was over the income guidelines. I tried to get a loan through my credit union and was denied because I did not make enough money. I have tried to secure part-time employment in addition to my full-time job and work as a part-time pool person for Hyatt Regency. I have only worked once since I checked into this.

What else can I do? What kind of assistance can a parent in my position get? If I could get cheaper child care, it would be of great help. I'm on a waiting list now for 4C program and was told it could take a year.

before I could get help. I've been on the list for 3 months now. I'm behind in doctor bills and I have tried to send each a little bit of money but they are tired of waiting. I try to explain my situation but they say they don't want to read any sob stories.

I would appreciate any help I could get and I'm sure there are a lot of other mothers who would too. I do not receive any child support or other financial support.

Sincerely,

Irene Burkhead
2068 Sherwood Ave #1
Lou. Ky 40205
(no phone)

835 E. Washington St.
Louisville, Kentucky 40206
April 23, 1988

Dear Congressman Mazzoli,

I'm in favor of any legislation that will help support daycare. Funding is needed for better quality care, sick child care, extended hours and emergency financial assistance. These are just the areas that touch my life and my childrens lives.

I'm the sole support of my children and their day care has at times been half of my salary. I have two year old twins and have had a terrible time financially. The reason for the financial problems is I have a decent paying job but I make too much money to qualify for assistance but too little to but exist. My credit rating is bad because of the daycare system.

The twins have allergies and as a result develope ear infections requiring me to take off from work to take them to their physician and stay at home with them until their temperature returns to normal. If there was sick child care I could have worked many more days than I have.

Daycares require children to stay home until there is no temperature and many times someone to watch them while their temperature was slightly elevated would have been a big help.

The result, of taking off with them not working, my weekly salary was reduced.

Something needs to be done about the quality of care. While looking for a place to care for my children, I looked at centers at both end of the scale. One center was well lit, well ventilated facility with playground and caring people. The other end of the scale was a center in a basement with flourescent lighting dirty, damp non ventilated area and no playground.

Funding is needed for extended hours. Most day cares have 9-5 hours. Many parents don't work ~~fo~~ just these hours. Hospitals, factories, restaurants and other service related industries work around the clock but there are no organized daycare facilities to care for our children. I've tried to use private sitters for these off hours but its hard to find quality people. Most non degree people are employed in higher paying jobs.

I have lost another job due to my inability to find childcare for the second and third shifts.

I realize there are many people asking for monies, for many other things, that are more powerful politically but keep this in mind we parents are not only speaking for ourself but for our children who must experience the care facilities whether good a bad.

Until now I've never voiced an opinion on how my tax dollar should be spent, but I want some of my money and your vote for this bill.

Mary E. Harmon

STATEMENT OF JOY ATTEBERRY, DIRECTOR, KIDDY CAMPUS DAY CARE

Ms. **Atteberry**. I am Joy Atteberry. I am the day care director at Kiddy Campus Day Care located here in Louisville. It is operated by Popular Love Church of God. It is a ministry of Popular Love Church of God. This day care is licensed for 38 because of the size of our building, so we are a small day care. We do not even make ends meet. The church takes care of part of our utilities in helping fund the day care because this is a ministry.

Mr. Mazzoli, I take offense at your statements that I am against subsidized day care. I am for all of these young ladies that were up here sharing their story. They do need the help; yes, they do.

But in reading this bill, as it is stated, it would mean that we would not be able to help these people. Now I want to read for you—I do not think most day cares that are in churches have read this bill, and when I read it I was aghast at least.

Mr. **Kildee**. You are talking about sections 19 and 20?

Ms. **Atteberry**. Yes.

Mr. **Kildee**. Those are the sections that we are rewriting right now and we realize the language has to be changed there.

Ms. **Atteberry**. I am just going to read the definition if that is all right.

Mr. **Kildee**. Sure.

Ms. **Atteberry**. It says:

> Any program or activity that has the purpose or effect of advancing or promoting a particular religion or religion generally, with respect to child care services performed on the premises of a pervasively sectarian institution, any such services performed in any classroom or other immediate space in which child care is provided unless all religious symbols and artifacts are covered or have been removed from such classrooms or space. Any such services performed by the persons who are otherwise employed as teachers or teachers, aides in a sectarian school or such institution that provides full time educational service.

By what the Supreme Court says is a promotion of any kind of religion. They say prayer is, so that would mean if our children wanted to pray—I think we have only got two in our day care that go to our church; the rest of them are outside of our church. And whether they want to pray, however they want to pray, they are—you are more than welcome to and we let our children do that. We do not tell them how they have to pray. This says we cannot even let them do that. If we did, we would not be able to accept any children that are on the program, that are subsidized.

You said we are not for children; we are. You said that we are——

Mr. **Mazzoli**. I cannot——

Ms. **Atteberry**. Wait a minute, please. OK?

Mr. **Mazzoli**. I cannot recall saying you were against subsidized care. I think what we were saying is that you have a different point of view, which is why you are here.

Ms. **Atteberry**. You said that we were against child care, and we provide child care. Just a few minutes ago, your statement said that we were—I forget exactly what you said—that they were better providers—that day care providers are better teachers than parents. And I——

Mr. **Mazzoli**. Who said that?

Ms. **Atteberry**. Just a few minutes ago.

Mr. **Mazzoli**. A witness may have said that.

Ms. **Atteberry**. You said the children would be hurt if they were in day care. Let me tell you that my two children are age 9 and 10. From the time they were 2 and 3, they were in day care, and my one child is in an advanced class. Day care has not hurt my child, not at all. In fact, it has helped my child.

But there are other mothers out there that would like to stay home and take care of their child and if they wish so, I think that is very good because, to be honest with you, that is the best provider for a child, is the mother and father. The family is the best provider, but not all parents have that option.

I think there are other bills on the floor that would do better at providing for the whole family than this bill that will only provide for a few.

Mr. **Mazzoli**. Thank you very much.

Mr. **Kildee**. I would like to first of all thank you. I think your presence here today is really in the greatest tradition of American democracy. This is the greatest country in the world, I think that is one thing we will agree on here. We live in the greatest country and I think the strong feelings people have on many different aspects of this bill are very, very important and I think you should take deep pride in yourself for coming here and exercising your right to express your opinions, and I thank Mr. Mazzoli for asking for your testimony.

Ms. **Atteberry**. Yes. I am so thankful that you allowed us to speak because I know Ms. Higgs said she spoke for the church-related day care.

Mr. **Mazzoli**. Mr. Chairman, if I might just say a couple of things.

Mr. **Kildee**. Certainly.

Mr. **Mazzoli**. I want to thank the gentle ladies and gentlemen for attending today and for speaking. And if I misstated your position, I apologize. It was only meant to try to provoke a response from the witnesses as to how they saw day care because there are some people who feel there should be no federal role whatsoever, period, end of report, in day care because of that possible influence on the children.

But let me just go on——

Ms. **Johnson**. We just want to be sure that people know we are not that way.

Mr. **Mazzoli**. That is great. This helps to flesh the record out because there are some people who just refuse any federal role whatsoever.

I want to just salute the chairman because he and his colleague in the Senate, Chris Dodd, are working very hard to solve the problems of section 19 and section 20 of the bill.

I have quotations, I will not read them into the record, Mr. Chairman, that indicate that after the Senate hearing of March 15, Senator Dodd indicated that the concerns in those two sections would be resolved. The chairman and his assistants said after the hearing as recently as Thursday in Washington, that the specifics of 19 and 20 will be attended to. One-third of the day care which is now being provided to American children is coming from church related institutions, which means that we cannot obviously pass a bill that does not have some concern for that reality. That is part of what we are trying to do.

A woman named Helen Blank of the Children's Defense Fund——which is the Children's Defense League, which is a proponent of this legislation, has indicated that it, the Children's Defense League, is in touch with its members and in touch with various members of the committee to try to work out solutions for those two sections.

So I have confidence that the chairman will, and certainly this is evidence of it, he has come to Louisville and spent this much time with us when he could be back in Washington or Michigan with his family, indicates he wants to hear and wants to learn and that this material plus any other material that you all have within reasonable length, will be put into the record to help us, help the committee with the bill.

We certainly want to thank all of you.

Ms. JOHNSON. Could I ask you a question?

Mr. MAZZOLI. Yes.

Ms. JOHNSON. Will those amendments be made available to organizations such as ours? I understand that there are groups that are working with you on amending——

Mr. KILDEE. When they are available, I will insert them in the Congressional Record so that every new agency, every one of the organizations you may be working with will have immediate access to them. They will be put in the Congressional Record.

Ms. JOHNSON. Since we do not read the Congressional Record, would it be possible for you to send that straight to us?

Mr. KILDEE. Yes, we will do that.

Ms. JOHNSON. Thank you.

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Perkins, do you have anything else?

Mr. PERKINS. No.

Mr. KILDEE. I want to thank you again, and thank those who accompanied you at the table, for your presence.

I have been to a lot of field hearings, but this takes first prize, no question. This has been just fantastic in enthusiasm and input. I want to thank you for it.

Every other weekend I go back to Michigan. The other weekend I spend with my family in Washington. So I have got to go back tonight and be with my family, but I will tell you, the families of America are very important to us in the Congress. I think you have helped us to understand how best we can serve those families of America, and I deeply appreciate that.

As I mentioned before, we will keep the record open for 2 weeks for the inclusion of any additional testimony.

Mr. MAZZOLI. Finally, Mr. Chairman, let me just say on behalf of everybody in Louisville and Jefferson County, thank you very much for your time and your attention. I thank my colleague Chris Perkins, who sacrificed the time away from his family to travel across Kentucky and be with us. We appreciate it and look forward to seeing you in Washington.

Mr. KILDEE. With that, we stand adjourned.

[Whereupon, at 12:47 p.m., the subcommittee was adjourned.]

[The National League of Cities submitted a report entitled "Children, Families & Cities: Programs That Work at the Local Level" which is retained in the Subcommittee files.]

[Additional material submitted for the record follows:]

Calvary Child Development Center
2520 Wallace Ave · at Doups Point
Louisville, Kentucky 40205
452-0230

April 26, 1988

Barbara H. Saunders
Administrator

Representative Dale Kildee
The Congress of the United States
Washington, D. C.

Dear Representative Kildee:

I was in the audience Saturday morning in Lousiville, Ky. I was very impressed with your part of the hearing.

One of the parents I have,who is on PURCHASE OF CARE, but could not attend wanted you to have the enclosed letter, and possibly have it included with the other materials gathered at the hearing on Saturday.

She wrote her letter strictly on her own. I was proud she mentioned the spiritual growth which takes place here at Calvary. Our school is non-profit, ecumenical. My background was in nursery-kindergarten, in Baptist churches. This is my 5th year in a private situation. All total I have spent 23 years with preschoolers and have seen a tremendous change throughout the years. With parents (mothers who are single) working at least 5 days per week, MOST children do not get taken to church, Sunday School, CCD, temple on Sunday. Therefore, if the children don't get values, morals, spirituality emphasized in their 8hour plus environment, where can they receive it?

Also enclosed is an article I wrote,"In the eyes of a child" telling how she views child development centers.

Thanks for bringing your hearing to Louisville. I'm sure you know the feelings of changing the language in Section 19 and 20 of the Bill. Would you be able to send me a copy of the revised version when it is completed ? THANKS!

Very truly yours,

Barbara H. Saunders

Encl. 3
copy to Congressman Ron Mazzoli
" " " Chris Perkins

1732 Fernwood Avenue
Louisville, KY. 40205
April 22, 1988

Congressman Ronald L. Mazzoli

RE: ABC

Dear Sir,

I am writing this letter to stress the importance for increased and continued assistance to low income families for child care services. My situation is such that if no assistance were available, I would be a welfare mother. If the total responsibility of child care were mine I would not be able to afford to work. My take home pay would leave me only $40.00 a month for rent, utilities, food, medical expenses and clothing. This is an impossibility!

Surely you can compare the amounts of money spent on a welfare family, i.e. housing, food stamps, AFDC, medical cards etc., to the costs of job training and child care assistance and prove that the second option is the most economical. Statistics also state that welfare children lean toward becoming recipients themselves.

Help the children, help the parents and the child care centers and the end result will be more people working, learning to become self-sufficient, paying into the tax, retail and wholesale systems instead of just draining them.

In providing essential and adequate training for the child care workers you are giving our youth the opportunity to learn religious, and moral values, self-esteem and assisting them in becoming productive adults.

If I can be of any assistance in the passage of this bill please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

Lynne M. Fegley

The Act For Better Child Care Services
Congressional Hearing
April 23, 1988

I am grateful for the opportunity to speak to you today regarding the Act for Better Child Care Services. My position as the Director of Child Development Programs at Brighton Center brings me in contact with many low-income families in the Northern Kentucky area. Our programs include a family day care satellite program for infants and toddlers, a preschool program for children at risk for abuse and neglect and a school-age child care program.

My experience as both a teacher and a director has given me a chance to see the needs of children and their families firsthand. Children need and deserve a quality, developmentally appropriate early education. Studies have shown that a quality preschool education can actually reduce the need for other services later in life. One study calculated that one dollar spent on a quality early childhood program saves three dollars in other services. America needs productive citizens to remain competitive in our everchanging world. The Act for Better Child Care Services will promote quality programs in three ways: 1. developing minimum health and safety standards; 2. providing funding for staff training; 3. providing funds for program improvement.

Our changing society has caused more parents to enter the workforce. The need for available, affordable, quality child care has grown rapidly in even the last few years. Currently, there are an insufficient number of child care spaces to meet the need. In Kentucky, there are 137,000 children under the age of 5 years with working mothers but only 42,000 licensed child care spaces. Child care is unaffordable to many families in our state especially single-parent and low-income families. Parents in need of financial assistance find that there is inadequate funding to meet their need. Often, the inability to find affordable child care means the difference between getting a job or collecting public assistance. The Act for Better Child Care Services will address the needs of low and moderate income families by providing financial assistance to families and expanding the number of available, quality child care spaces.

The children and families in our state deserve the best and The Act for Better Child Care Services is a giant step towards meeting their child care needs. The Act will promote available, affordable, quality programs and is specifically designed to include parental choice. Parents will have the opportunity to chose the program that best meets their need whether it is a family day care home, for-profit or not-for-profit center, or a school-aged child care program. The Act is the most comprehensive child care initiative in our society today. I urge our Kentucky representatives to support the Act for Better Child Care Services for the sake of Kentucky children and their families. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Janet Neal
45 Devils Den Lane, #208
Ft. Thomas, KY 41075
(606) 781-8878 (home)
(606) 491-8303 (work)

Plainview
Pre-School

MAY 5 — 1988

May 3, 1988

Honorable Romano L. Mazzoli
2246 Rayburn Building
Washington, D.C.

Dear Ron,

Enclosed is a statement which I would like to have included in the subcommittee hearing that was held here in Louisville at the Executive Inn.

Again, I would like to invite you and Helen to see our center. If there is anything I can do regarding this matter Please feel free to call on me.

Sincerely,

Jim

H. James Darst, Jr.

Plainview Pre-School Inc. 10320 Timberwood Circle Louisville, Kentucky 40223 245-1333

My name is H. James Darst, Jr., President and owner of Plainview Pre-School, Inc. located in Louisville, Kentucky. Our facility is licensed for 375 children. I have heard testimony that indicated there is a lack of facilities to take care of all the children who require day care services. Our center has openings and most of the other centers with which I am familiar have openings. The portion of the bill that concerns me is Sec. 7 (c) (3) (H) which states that grants will be made to nonprofit child care centers. I believe that is unfair to proprietary schools who have to compete with nonprofit centers. Two years ago I was planning to open another center. However, when I learned that the Jefferson County Board of Education was offering day care services in some of the Jefferson County Schools, I decided to cancel those plans. I believe that if funds are going to be provided directly to day care centers, that forprofit centers and nonprofit centers should be treated alike. However, I believe the best answer is not to give grants to either one, but to let the funds flow through the families, like the present Purchase of Day Care Program.

For the record

KENTUCKY ASSOCIATION FOR CHILD CARE MANAGEMENT

POSITION STATEMENT

April 18, 1988

The Kentucky Association for Child Care Management, an association of small business entrepreneurs, is committed to the ideal of all children having access to responsibly regulated, quality child care services in a safe, healthy and developmentally productive environment. Public, private and sectarian programs all play an important role in providing quality child care. We know the value of licensed monitored child care and fully support this function at the state level. We support above all other consideration, the parents' or parent's right to choose the program that meets their needs and philosophies of child rearing.

KACCM agrees with the recent (4/15/88) findings of the U. S. Department of Labor. This report by Labor Secretary Ann McLaughlin states that there is "no evidence in support of the contention that there is a general, national shortage of available child care. She also emphasizes, "Despite all of this activity and interest, one thing has not changed -- the primary responsibility for child care resides with America's parents."

KACCM appreciates the attempts of the proposed child care bills to broaden the availability of child care, improve the calibre of that care and assist low income families in meeting its cost. However, we believe that mechanisms already exist (at a cost to American taxpayers of 6.9 billion dollars annually). These include Aid for Dependent Children, Head Start, USDA Child Care Food Programs, Department of Education, Tax Credits, Title XX, Job Training Program Act, Small Business Administration, Department of Defense, and Alternative Payment Voucher.

The Child Care Review Magazine reported in its April/May, 1988 issue the the A B C (Alliance for Better Child Care. Kildee/Dodd) legislation will cost parents nearly 1.2 billion dollars more in increased tuition payments. In Kentucky alone, the projected increase in tuition is $10,034,088.25 if this legislation is enacted.

KACCM encourages that any legislation reassess and reform already existing mechanisms. An effort to eliminate administrative waste and to require a more exacting match from the states and from local governments will result in an overall ability to serve more families and their children.

The Small Business Administration should expand their loan program to include special low interest loans that will encourage the growth and the expansion of more child care programs.

The 20% ceiling on Tax credits should be reduced for higher income brackets. Credits could then be redirected to benefit lower income families or even possibly refunded. This measure would be "Revenue Neutral".

The proposed legislation is anti-proprietary, anti-sectarian, anti-family, and anti-states rights. It is so fraught with government competition to the private proprietary child care providers that it could conceivably open the way for government subsidization of the child care industry so far as the private sector is concerned.

A 20% level of monitoring of such a large amount of the use of tax payers monies and accountability thereof is unacceptable. This monitoring must be 100% for the safety and the welfare of the children for whom these funds are proposed.

KACCN members are the people who administer the services, compete in the market place, and **GENERATE REVENUE** . If we are to continue in this role, we cannot compete with this much additional government competition which specifically excludes the private proprietary and the sectarian providers of child care. Child care is a business and the needs of the business person must not be overlooked in our rush to enact more legislation.

As does every other state, Kentucky has in place licensing laws, rules and regulations for child care. We contend that Kentucky is best able to regulate the industries of Kentucky as we are more familiar with the needs, the customs, the supply and the demand of services, and the economic status of our state and its citizens.

We believe, therefore, that the application of federal regulations would unnecessarily raise the cost of our services without improving the quality of child care in the United States.

We must always be sure that the American way is never endangered or that there is never any infringement of government regulations on parents' choice or personal freedoms so far as making decisions concerning their children is concerned. Further, we must guarantee at all costs that the free enterprise system, of which private proprietary child care is an important part, is never jeopardized in any way. This was one of the great democratic principles on which these United States was founded and has continued to grow.

CONGRESSIONAL HEARING ON THE
ACT FOR BETTER CHILD CARE SERVICES OF 1987
WRITTEN TESTIMONY BY
KENTUCKY CABINET FOR HUMAN RESOURCES
APRIL 23, 1988

THE FOLLOWING IS WRITTEN TESTIMONY FOR INCLUSION IN THE MATERIAL PRESENTED AT THE CONGRESSIONAL FIELD HEARING ON THE ACT FOR BETTER CHILD CARE SERVICES OF 1987 (H.R. 3660), CHAIRED BY REPRESENTATIVE DALE KILDEE AND REPRESENTATIVE ROMAMO L. MAZZOLI. THE CABINET FOR HUMAN RESOURCES IS IN GENERAL SUPPORT OF THE ABC PROPOSAL.

THE INCREASING CONCERN AND INTEREST IN CHILD CARE IS SHARED BY ALL LEVELS OF GOVERNMENT. CHILD CARE IS A CRITICAL PART OF A STRATEGY TO MOVE FAMILIES FROM POVERTY AND DEPENDENCE ON WELFARE TO ECONOMIC SELF-SUFFICIENCY THROUGH EDUCATION, TRAINING AND EMPLOYMENT. THE NEED FOR CHILD CARE IS LINKED TO THE INCREASED NUMBERS OF MOTHERS IN THE WORK FORCE, THE GROWING NUMBER OF SINGLE-PARENT FAMILIES, AND THE RISE IN THE NUMBER OF POOR CHILDREN.

AS MANY OF YOU ARE AWARE, AS FEDERAL SOCIAL SERVICES BLOCK GRANT FUNDS DECREASED, KENTUCKY HAS JOINED OTHER STATES IN STRUGGLING TO MEET THE GROWING NEED FOR QUALITY, AFFORDABLE CHILD CARE. KENTUCKY'S CURRENT BUDGET OF $7.1 MILLION IN FEDERAL AND STATE FUNDS PROVIDES DAY CARE SERVICES FOR APPROXIMATELY 4,500 CHILDREN ON A DAILY BASIS. APPROXIMATELY HALF OF OUR BUDGET IS SPENT ON DAY CARE FOR ABUSED AND NEGLECTED CHILDREN, OUR FIRST PRIORITY. THE REMAINING AMOUNT IS SPENT ON CHILDREN OF WORKING PARENTS. WE CONTINUE TO OPERATE WITH WAITING LISTS. THE NEED FOR DAY CARE FAR EXCEEDS THE DEMAND. SOME OTHER STATEWIDE PROBLEMS THAT SUBSTANTIATE NEEDED FUNDING FOR CHILD CARE ARE: (1) NOT ENOUGH LICENSED CHILD CARE SLOTS (AS OF MARCH, 1988, 17 KENTUCKY COUNTIES HAD "0" SLOTS); (2) COSTLY PROVISION OF TRANSPORTATION SERVICES BY DAY CARE OPERATORS ESPECIALLY IN RURAL SECTIONS OF THE STATE; (3) LACK OF START-UP FUNDS FOR CHILD CARE PROGRAMS; (4) INSUFFICIENT NUMBERS OF TRAINED LICENSING STAFF TO ENFORCE STATE DAY CARE REGULATIONS; (5) NOT ENOUGH FAMILY DAY CARE HOMES; AND, (6) LACK OF QUALITY INFANT-CARE PROGRAMS.

THE ACT FOR BETTER CHILD CARE SERVICES BILL CONTAINS A NUMBER OF PROVISIONS TO EXPAND CURRENT CHILD CARE SERVICES, TO ASSIST MORE LOW AND MODERATE INCOME FAMILIES IN PAYING FOR CHILD CARE, AND TO PROVIDE ADDITIONAL TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES AND STANDARDS FOR DAY CARE. WITH PASSAGE OF THE ABC BILL, AS YOU ARE AWARE, A LARGE AMOUNT OF FEDERAL DOLLARS WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR KENTUCKY TO UTILIZE FOR CHILD CARE PROVIDING THE STATE CAN MATCH 20% OF THESE FEDERAL DOLLARS WHICH COULD BE AS HIGH AS $47 MILLION FOR KENTUCKY.

TO QUALIFY FOR FUNDING, IF THE CURRENT ABC BILL IS PASSED, STATES WILL HAVE TO INCLUDE A 5 YEAR STATE CHILD-CARE PLAN, WHICH AMONG OTHER THINGS, ENSURES THAT:

1) NON-FEDERAL FUNDS WILL BE USED FOR A LOW INTEREST LOAN PROGRAM TO HELP ESTABLISH CHILD CARE PROGRAMS AND RENOVATE EXISTING CHILD CARE FACILITIES;

2) RESOURCE AND REFERRAL AGENCIES WILL BE AVAILABLE TO FAMILIES THROUGHOUT THE STATE;

3) CHILD CARE IS AVAILABLE TO PARENTS WHO WORK NONTRADITIONAL HOURS AND FOR HANDICAPPED CHILDREN;

4) PROCEDURES ARE ESTABLISHED FOR PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT;

5) THE STATE IS IN COMPLIANCE WITH MINIMAL FEDERAL STANDARDS ESTABLISHED BY THE NATIONAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE;

6) ALL CHILD CARE PROVIDERS THAT RECEIVE ASSISTANCE MEET CERTAIN FEDERAL AND STATE LICENSING REQUIREMENTS; AND

7) CHILDREN IN FAMILIES WITH LOWEST INCOMES ARE PRIORITY FOR CHILD CARE SERVICES.

CONCERNS HAVE BEEN RAISED AT THE NATIONAL LEVEL REGARDING THE TOTAL COST OF THE ABC BILL AS WELL AS THE IMPLEMENTATION OF FEDERAL REGULATORY STANDARDS FOR CHILD CARE, THAT INDIVIDUAL STATES WOULD BE REQUIRED TO MEET WITHIN A 5 YEAR PERIOD. IT IS OUR UNDERSTANDING THAT EXISTING STATE FUNDS CAN BE USED TO MATCH THE FEDERAL AMOUNT OF APPROXIMATELY 47 MILLION DOLLARS FOR KENTUCKY. WE ENDORSE THIS TYPE OF MATCH THAT WOULD PERMIT STATES TO USE EXISTING STATE EXPENSES FOR DAY CARE TO MAXIMIZE FEDERAL DOLLARS. IN ORDER TO MEET THE SIGNIFICANT REQUIREMENTS OUTLINED IN H.R. 3660, IT IS IMPERATIVE THAT STATES RECEIVE THE FULL FEDERAL ALLOTMENT.

IN CONCLUSION, WE WOULD LIKE TO EMPHASIZE THAT IN ORDER TO IMPROVE THE QUALITY, AVAILABILITY AND AFFORDABILITY OF CHILD CARE FOR KENTUCKIANS, THE PRIVATE SECTOR MUST PLAY A STRONGER ROLE IN ADDRESSING CHILD CARE NEEDS. INDUSTRY MUST BE INVOLVED IN A COMMUNITY EFFORT TO PROVIDE CHILD CARE FOR WORKING FAMILIES, EITHER BY PROVIDING DOLLAR OR IN-KIND CONTRIBUTIONS, OR INNOVATIVE PROGRAMS FOR EMPLOYEES. STATE GOVERNMENT, BUSINESS AND DAY CARE PROVIDERS WORKING TOGETHER IS ESSENTIAL TO ENHANCE THE AVAILABILITY OF QUALITY CHILD CARE. THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT MUST ALSO PROVIDE STATES WITH BOTH THE FINANCIAL RESOURCES AND THE FLEXIBILITY TO IMPROVE CHILD CARE SERVICES. ONLY WITH A STRONG COMMITMENT TO CHILD CARE, INCLUDING AN INVESTMENT FROM THE FEDERAL, STATE AND LOCAL LEVELS AND THE PRIVATE SECTOR AND A TRUE PARTNERSHIP OF ALL OF THESE LEVELS, WILL PROGRESS BE MADE IN ADDRESSING THE NEED FOR CHILD CARE IN THIS NATION.

BARDSTOWN CITY SCHOOLS

Robert R. Smotherman, Superintendent
301 North Fifth Street
Bardstown, Kentucky 40004
Telephone (502) 348-9086

Board of Education

Margie Bradford
Martha Gentry
Franklin Hibbs
Joseph Johnson
J.B. Sparks

Walker Ferry, Director
Instructional Related Services

Pat Hagan, Director
Instructional Services

Fred Allen, Director
Adult Education

Sam Wheatley, Director
Special Projects

April 20, 1988

RECEIVED
APR 21 1988
CONGRESSMAN MAZZOLI
APR 28 1988

Honorable Romano L. Mazzoli
551 A Federal Building
Louisville, Kentucky 40202

Dear Honorable Mazzoli:

I wish to offer my support to House Bill H.R. 3660. Child care for students before and after school is a major concern to our parents and teachers. It is simply irresponsible to allow students to stand out in the cold waiting for the schools to open their doors. In the evening, you find small children not leaving the school grounds because they can't get in the house until mother gets home.

For many parents, they simply cannot pay an additional child care fee. We need to allow child care before and after school to become a part (financially) of the educationally process.

Child care programs should be of enrichment in nature to the child versus custodial. The administration, teaching staff, and parents of the Bardstown City Schools fully support your endeavors related to the Child Care Program.

Sincerely,

Sam

Sam W. Wheatley
Director, Special Projects
Bardstown City Schools

SWW/sr

All schools fully accredited by
Southern Association of Colleges and Schools